

A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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Bacterial Leaf Scorch

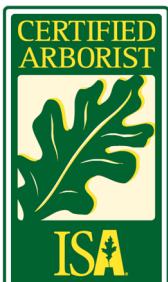
Description: Bacterial leafscorch is an important and often lethal disease of many landscape trees, particularly in the southern and eastern U.S. In North Carolina landscapes it is most often observed on oak, elm, and sycamore; however, many other landscape tree species are susceptible to this disease.

Symptoms: Symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch usually appear in the latter part of summer and progress through the fall. The most characteristic symptom of this disease is marginal leaf scorch. Insect vectors spread the pathogen that causes bacterial leaf scorch. The primary vectors are leafhoppers called sharpshooters, but other insects, such as spittlebugs, also vector the bacterium. Initial symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch often appear on only one or two branches before gradually spreading to more and more branches in subsequent years. Other symptoms, depending on the host species, include leaf yellowing, browning and premature leaf drop.



Control: There are currently no curative controls for bacterial leaf scorch. Injection of antibiotics into diseased trees has been shown to slow the spread of the disease, but will not cure the tree. One study, conducted by the University of Maryland, demonstrated a possible connection between BLS and water stress. It may be possible to prolong the life of BLS infected trees by applying supplemental water during the hot, dry parts of the growing season. Avoiding stress to trees and maintaining them in optimal health can help trees better withstand the effects of bacterial leaf scorch, resulting in a longer period of time in which they are aesthetically acceptable and survive.

Frady Tree Care takes great pride and passion to care for your trees. Trees are TREEMENDOUS renewable resources. They are valuable in respect to life and your landscape. We are here to serve your tree care needs by preserving and enhancing the quality of your property through tree care education and services.



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