

Phytophthora austrocedri



Phytophthora austrocedri (*P.austrocedri*) is a fungus-like pathogen which poses a threat to juniper trees in Britain. This species of *Phytophthora* was only described in 2007, although it is thought to have been present in Argentina for at least 50 years. The name 'austrocedri' originates from *Austrocedrus*, the genus of conifer tree in Argentina, first recorded as a host of this pathogen.

Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is an important native species and a significant proportion of the small area of juniper woodland in Britain is protected. *P.austrocedri* was first reported in the UK in 2011, and infected trees have since been found at sites across Scotland and the north of England.

Symptoms Guide: *Phytophthora austrocedri*

Decline in vigour

Healthy, vibrant looking individual juniper trees may be in close proximity to trees in decline.



Onset of decline

The first sign of decline in juniper is the foliage turning a dull green.



Bronze foliage

As the disease progresses, the crown of infected trees will become a bronze/brown colour. The pathogen will also occasionally attack the stem or individual branches, causing patches of bronze coloured foliage in amongst healthy foliage.



Discoloured phloem

When the outer bark of the tree is cut away at the infected area, discoloured phloem (inner bark) is revealed. The diseased tissue is usually a cinnamon brown colour with yellow lesion edges and may have resin islands present. Healthy tissue is white.



Don't give
pests and
diseases
an easy ride



If you think you have spotted a new case of this disease in a tree, then report it through the Forestry Commission's online Tree Alert form: [forestry.gov.uk/treelert](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/treelert)

You can help to slow the spread of this disease by practising good biosecurity.



Think kit

Before leaving site, all soil and organic material should be removed from footwear, outerwear and equipment, before being washed, cleaned and sprayed with an approved disinfectant.



Think transport

Vehicles that have gone off-road or have been driven on roads that are wet, muddy or littered with organic material must be cleaned using a pressure washer before leaving the site.



Think trees

Juniper is foraged for use in food and drink, and cuttings have been taken from sites for re-stocking programmes. Plant material, including the berries, should not be removed from infected sites.

A number of other disorders can produce symptoms similar to those caused by *Phytophthora austrocedri*, such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Heavy snow or drought may also cause similar browning but there would be no associated lesions.

For more details, please visit www.forestry.gov.uk/paustrocedrae