Bronze Leaf Disease of Poplar

FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





What it is:

Bronze Leaf Disease (BLD) of poplar is caused by the fungus Apioplagiostoma populi. Infection begins through the leaves and becomes systemic, eventually resulting in dieback of the infected tree. Degree of damage that can be expected is difficult to predict since there does seem to be a difference in the degree of susceptibility depending on the species or hybrid of poplar affected. Many native poplar species are susceptible and many poplar hybrids are also known to be susceptible. Some poplar clones such as Tower poplar and Swedish aspen are known to be highly susceptible to the disease.

Symptoms:

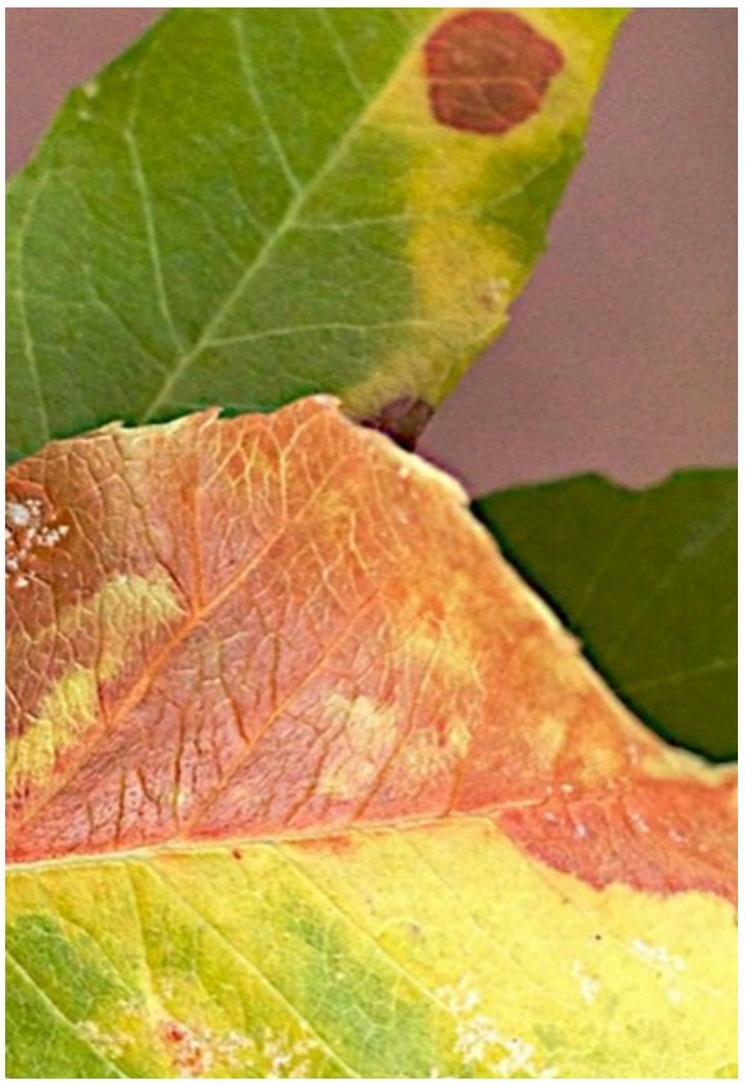
Symptoms typically emerge in midsummer as yellowish, orange-brown, or reddish-brown discoloration near leaf margins, gradually spreading toward the base. Veins, midribs, and petioles may stay green initially. Entire shoots can show symptoms, and affected leaves often turn bronze, dark reddish brown, or even chocolate brown—giving the disease its name. Poplar species may influence symptom severity. Symptoms may appear throughout the crown or be limited to a few branches, especially in the first year. Infected leaves often remain attached through winter. The fungus spreads systemically through stems, causing symptoms in new leaves, which may remain underdeveloped. Branch dieback can occur, and highly susceptible clones or hybrids may decline and die after repeated infections. Trees weakened by BLD are more vulnerable to other diseases. Diagnosis involves observing symptoms and inspecting leaves in late summer and the following spring for fungal fruiting structures: acervuli in late summer/fall and perithecia in spring on overwintered leaves.

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Prevention:

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Contact

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