



Forest Threats

Ceratocystis wilt

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

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Fungal diseases

Ceratocystis wilt

Ceratocystis albifundus Wingfield, De Beer and Morris; and *Ceratocystis eucalypticola* M. van Wyk & M.J. Wingfield

SYMPTOMS

Infection normally occurs through natural openings or external wounds induced through silvicultural practices, insects or weather conditions. Symptoms of infected tree hosts include leaf discoloration and wilting which eventually leads to death. The stems produce cankers and exude gum at infection sites and internal infections in the stem are visible as dark brown to black streaks in the cambium.

BIOLOGY

The spore masses of *Ceratocystis* are often be distributed via insect vectors. It can also be present in the frass created by insects; the frass can be distributed via wind and rain. Fungal spores can survive for long periods of time in the soil and infect new trees planted in the same soil.

