



CAUTION: Invasive Species:
Beech Leaf Disease

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) Threatening, 6/2022 in Adirondacks (Herkimer Co.) downstate, central & western NYS.

Impact- Affects and kills both native and ornamental beech tree species. Beech trees are a significant % of our watershed. It can kill mature beech trees in 6-10 years and some cases have shown saplings killed in one year. First discovered in 2012 in Ohio, the disease has now been located as far east as Massachusetts, western and downstate NY counties.

What is Beach Leaf Disease- It is associated with a nematode. Nematode feeding can begin at bud break causing dark banding between the veins of tender foliage. As the season progresses and damage worsens the leaves become leathery in texture and dark banding can turn yellow and kill affected branch tips.

How to identify- Symptoms are seen in the leaves including striping, curling and/or leathery texture. These symptoms may be visible from leaf out in May until the leaf fall in Fall. In early infestations, only a few leaves may be affected. A single tree can contain both heavily infected and unaffected branches. The backlighting seen when looking up into the forest canopy can help you spot the leaf striping associated with BLD.

Action This disease has only been discovered in recent years and much about it including the full cause and how it spreads is still unknown. Currently there is no known way to control or manage this disease. DEC is collecting information on symptomatic beech disease across New York State in the hopes of learning more about the disease. Take photos of symptoms, as well as the tree's leaves, bark, and the entire tree if possible and email to DEC at foresthealth@dec.ny.gov or call 1-866-640-0652. Follow NYS firewood regulations to help prevent the spread – Do Not move firewood more than possible and not more than 50 miles (NYS law).

Note- there are other beech diseases, see <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/120589.html#Locations> for pictures and descriptions for more info.



Leaf Striping



Curling

ESSLA 7/22