

Bur Oak Blight

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Bur Oak Blight (*Tubakia iowensis*)

DESCRIPTION:

Bur Oak Blight (BOB) is caused by a fungus named *Tubakia iowensis*. It is a leaf disease that attacks oak trees causing severe decline and death.

HOSTS:

Bur oak trees of all sizes are at risk to bur oak blight. Other trees such as swamp white oaks have also been affected, although it is not as common.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Small, circular leaf spots are the most initial symptom of BOB. The disease eventually spreads to the leaf veins, discoloring them and forming small, black fruiting bodies that contain fungal spores. These spores are the primary source of infection, spreading through rain and wind. Leaves will eventually brown starting from the tips of the leaves, creating a wedge-shaped necrosis. Trees may appear to have healthy foliage through the summer, but early fall will show signs of damage.

MANAGEMENT:

This disease is very difficult to manage. Bur oak blight may look serious but is not typically the primary pathogen responsible for tree decline. Bur oak blight is a stressor, therefore it can be managed by reducing tree stress. Techniques such as appropriate watering, mulching, and soil modification are recommended to boost tree health. A tree stressed by bur oak blight is susceptible to two-line chestnut borer and management for the borer should be considered as well. Consult with your local arborist for more information on protecting your trees.

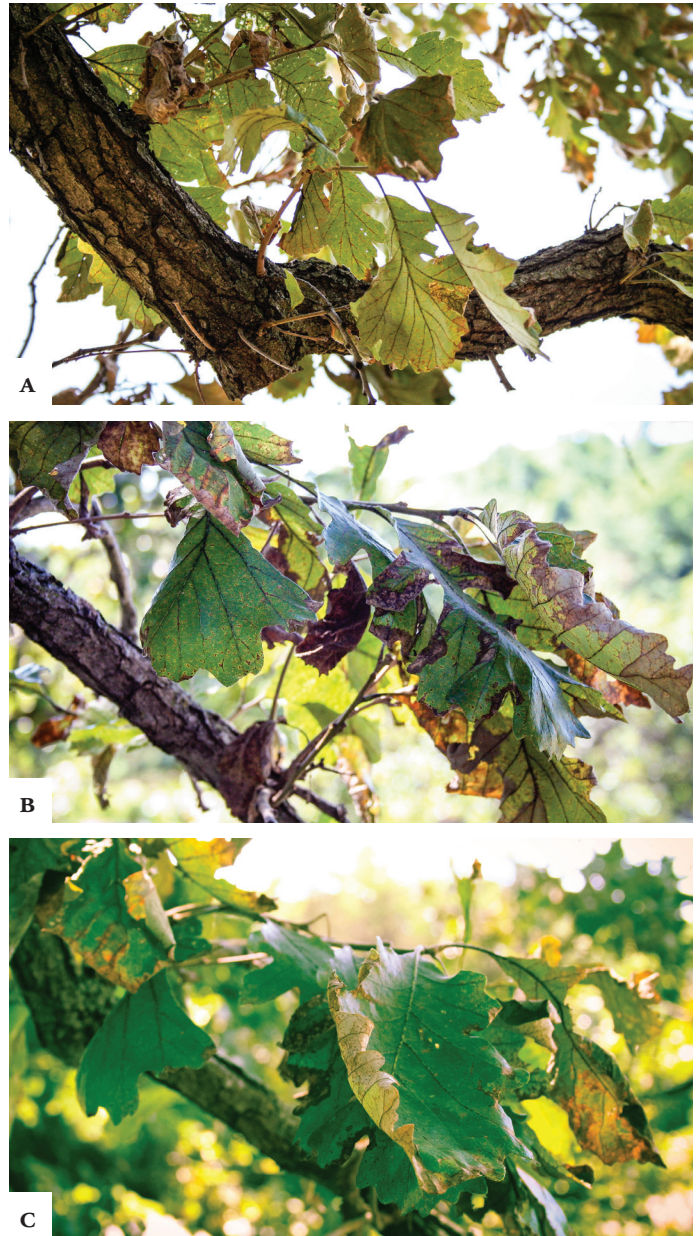


FIGURE A. BUR OAK BLIGHT LEAF DISEASE IN CANOPY OF TREE

FIGURE B. SYMPTOMS OF BUR OAK BLIGHT THAT HAS SPREAD TO LEAF VEINS

FIGURE C. LEAVES BEGINNING TO TURN BROWN AS A RESULT OF BOB

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult **The Davey Institute's Plant Health Care Book**.*

