

Eastern filbert blight

What is it?

Eastern filbert or hazelnut blight (caused by *Anisogramma anomala*) is a fungal disease that causes potentially fatal cankers on the trunk and branches of hazelnut trees. It is not present in Australia and is restricted to the United States where entire orchards have been lost to this disease.

What to look for

Once cankers form, they can expand at a rate of 30cm/year. This causes canopy and yield loss and can cause death of mature trees in 5-15 years with younger trees being killed within 4-7 years. As the canopy dies back, new shoots and suckers may emerge from the tree base and these in turn become infected and die.

Infected trees may not show symptoms for up to two years. New infections are usually as a result of infected nursery stock.

The fungus cannot spread over large distances as cool wet weather and rain splash is needed for dispersal.

Where is it found?

This disease is found in the United States on native filberts as well as cultivated hazelnuts.



Infected twig showing white fungal spores

Dr Jay W. Pscheidt (Pscheidt, 2006) Oregon State University



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Fungal fruit bodies under bark – early symptoms

How can I protect my orchard from Eastern filbert blight?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common nut pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



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Dieback of hazelnut tree branches infected with Hazelnut blight

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