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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS/PROPERTY OWNERS BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE - Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Oak!

Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Oak has spread to our area!

Introducing the Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Oak to Plainfield

On behalf of the Shade Tree Commission and the Planning Division, we ask that Plainfield residents accept this note as an advisory to pay very close attention to the bacterial leaf scorch of oak. As seen in the photo on the right by A.B. Gould, the irregular leaf scorch on oak is evident in late summer early fall. Look for a pronounced marginal discoloration with a dull red or yellow halo between scorched and green tissues. Here are some other facts and characteristics:



- Leaf scorch, sometimes called marginal leaf burn, describes the death of tissue along the edge of the leaf. This symptom develops when sufficient water does not reach the leaf margin cells.
- Scorched branches randomly appear throughout the canopy.
 - A thinning silhouette is a common characteristic to many trees affected by Bacterial Leaf Scorch (seen in the photo to the left by A.B. Gould).
 - Bacterial Leaf Scorch can occur if 1) there is insufficient moisture in the soil 2) water is lost too quickly from the leaves to be replaced adequately, 3) roots have been killed by plant pathogens, excavation, or compaction or 4) fungi or bacteria invade and plug the water conducting vessels (xylem) in the plant.



Reporting

If you suspect Bacterial Leaf Scorch on your property, or think you may have spotted it somewhere else, here's what you should do, contact your local arborist or tree expert as soon as possible to develop a plan for treatment and management. Or contact New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 1-609-406-6939. If you have any shade tree related questions, you can also contact the Planning Division, which serves as the liaison to the City Shade Tree Commission, at 908-753-3421.