

BUR OAK BLIGHT



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Bur Oak Blight (*Tubakia iowensis*), or BOB, is a serious and progressive leaf disease that leads to the decline of certain Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) trees. Repeated, and progressive disease development will weaken the tree and allow for secondary problems such as Two Lined Chestnut Borer, which may result in tree death.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

BOB only affects bur oaks, most commonly the native species with smaller acorns. It is found in the Midwestern states, but has increased in severity in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and eastern Nebraska. Recent rainy spring seasons have increased its prevalence.

SYMPTOMS:

Symptoms begin as brown wedge-shaped lesions on the leaves, which may continue to develop through the summer causing the leaf to fully brown. Small black fruiting bodies of the fungus are often visible on the veins or petioles of affected leaves. Trees may suffer from BOB one year and then re-leaf normally the next spring, only to show symptoms again by mid-summer.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Spring trunk injections of Propizol[®] have proven to be effective when treatments are made between partial leaf emergence and the first week of June. Fall applications made in late September to early October will provide protection into the following spring.

Tree growth regulator treatment of the affected trees will enhance their ability to sustain the stresses caused by Bur Oak Blight and potentially reduce the number of affected leaves. Apply Shortstop[®] 2SC anytime during the growing season which will benefit the tree for three years.

We recommend following up the fungicide treatment with IMA-jet[®] or TREE-age[®] G4 insecticide to protect from Two Lined Chestnut Borer, which may affect the tree once weakened by BOB. Use the same injection sites but do not mix the two products.



Symptoms of Bur Oak Blight



Close Up of Black Pustules on Petiole



Chlorotic-Dead Areas on Leaf



Vein Discoloration

Photo Credit: Damage: Bur Oak Blight on Oak: Jeff Palmer, Arborjet; Symptoms, Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Close up of Black Pustules: Dr. Tom Harrington and Doug McNew, Iowa State University; Chlorotic-dead areas of leaf: Dr. Tom Harrington and Doug McNew, Iowa State University; Vein discoloration, Dr. Tom Harrington and Doug McNew, Iowa State University