

# Beech Leaf Disease

Seen on Cape Cod on American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and European beech (*F. sylvatica*) including the purple leaf varieties (*F. s. 'Atropunicea'*).



Caused by a foliage nematode:  
*Litylenchus crenatae ssp. mccannii*.

The presence of this pest is most easily seen when you look up into the leaves. On infected leaves you will see stripes.

The nematodes spend the fall and late-winter in the buds on the tree, and come out in May when the damage is seen.

It is early days with this pest, and university research on possible treatments is just beginning. Early trials show that a fungicide that's available to certified arborists, fluopyram, may be effective when sprayed in a window between late-May and mid-July. However UMass reports that this nematode can also overwinter in soil, bark, and in bird poop. We'll keep our information updated as more research is done.

For more information contact the  
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Service  
508-375-6690

