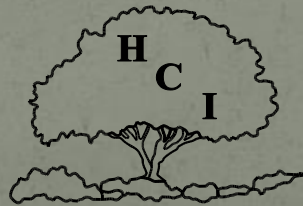


Sooty Canker in Southern Nevada

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Sooty Canker

- Fungal Disease
 - Also known as branch wilt &
 - Limb wilt
- Scientific Name
 - *Hendersonula toruloidea*
 - Recently changed to *Natrassia*

Sooty Canker

- Common Hosts – preference: older, stressed trees
 - Fruit and Nut Trees
 - Citrus
 - Fig
 - Apple
 - Apricot
 - Shade Trees – any tree may be infected!
 - Ash
 - Mulberry
 - Sycamore
 - Chinaberry
 - Poplar (cottonwoods)

Sooty Canker

- Plant Symptoms
 - General wilting and dieback
 - Leaves emerge very small and die during the summer
 - Progressive decline during periods of stress
 - Dead leaves persist into the following spring
- Signs of the Disease
 - Brownish, moist areas on limbs
 - Rarely noticed from the ground
 - Splitting bark
 - Black masses of fungal spores exposed









Initial Signs of Sooty Canker in Ash



Sooty Canker in Ash







There are no treatments for cankers in large limbs or trunks

Sooty Canker

- Environmental Conditions
 - Cool, moist winters followed by
 - Hot, dry summers
- Methods of Dispersal
 - Extremely Contagious
 - Easily spread by wind & rain
 - Also pruning tools
 - Enters any wound
 - Damaged & sunburned sections of bark
 - Pruning cuts

Sooty Canker

- Why do trees become infected?
 - Environmental Stress
 - Drought
 - Heavy pruning
 - Pruning with contaminated tools
 - Improperly conducted turf reduction projects

Our Best Defense - Prevention

- Keep trees healthy and vigorously growing
 - Provide ample water and nutrition
- Avoid over pruning; lion-tailing
 - Maintain lower foliage to shade the trunk
 - Protect trunks from sunscald
- Prune at the proper time
 - Restrict pruning to cool, dry periods especially large limbs
- Sterilize tools
- Avoid chipping debris

Prevention of Spread

- Sometimes it is best to simply remove a tree
 - Heavily diseased trees have the potential to infect their neighbor trees
- Repetitive use of same species is pretty
 - Monocultures puts susceptible trees in close proximity
 - The use of large number of ash and mulberry trees has helped to spread the disease throughout the valley

THERE IS NO PERFECT TREE!

Selection is a compromise among:
the proposed function of the plant,
its adaptation to the site,
and the amount of care it will require.

Arboriculture, Harris, Clark & Matheny 1999.

Consider Alternatives for Replanting

- Chinese Pistache
- Lacebark Elm
- Common Hackberry



Summary

- Extremely contagious
- Proactive management helps to promote longevity
- Prevention is the best control
- Use of alternative species



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