

Sooty Bark Disease Response - City of Seattle

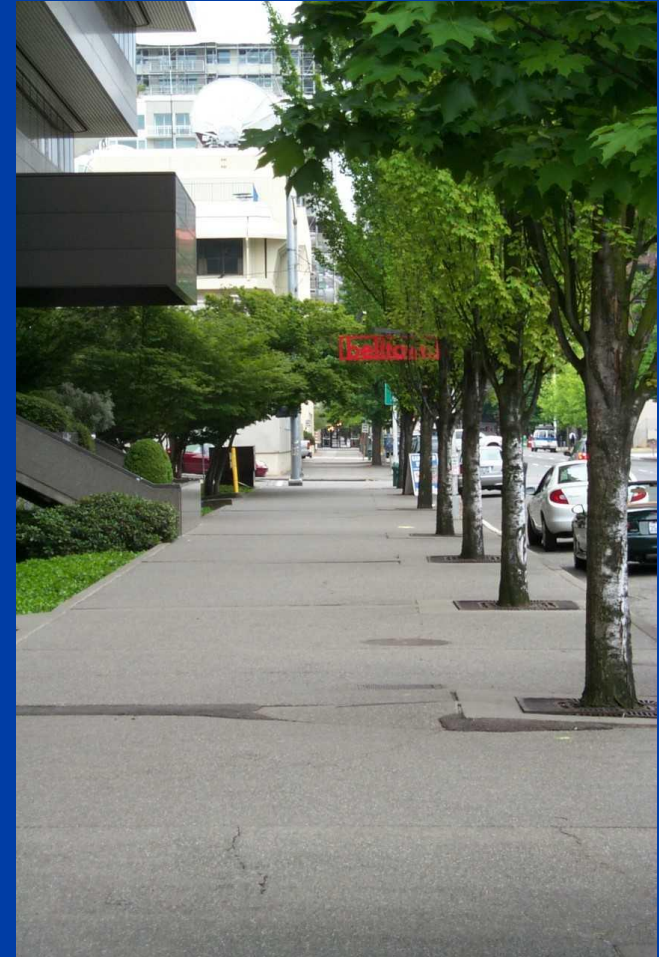
Forming a Response Based on Emerging Research

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Urban Forestry Commission

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Our vision, mission, and core values

Vision: Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

Mission: to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**

- Equity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Sustainability
- Livability
- Excellence



Photo Credit: S. Helms

Agenda

- What is Sooty Bark Disease?
- Background 2020-2021
- Species Impacted
- Partners & Stakeholders
- Sooty Bark Disease Seminar
- Where do we go from here?
- Why is this work important?



What is Sooty Bark Disease?

- Tree disease caused by fungal pathogen *Cryptostroma corticale*
- Maples are main hosts
- Not new to WA or US
 1. Detected in Pullman, WA in 1969 on dead tree
 2. Recorded in other select areas of US
 3. Invasive in Europe
- Limited research publications
- Possible human health impacts – more research needed
- Exacerbated by heat and drought – connected to climate change?
- More info on WSU's Emerging Plant Health Issues page

Who in the City is involved?

Departments

- Office of Sustainability and Environment
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Department of Constructions and Inspections

Work Groups

- Urban Forestry Core Team
- Seattle Committee on Invasive Pests

Background - 2020

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- Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) discussed in March 2020
 - SPR received 3 positive samples from Bartlett Labs in 2020
 - Announced to UF Staff in Nov 2020
 - SPR brings to Seattle Committee on Invasive Pests

Background - 2021

- Jan 2021 – Talks with state partners begins
- Feb 2021 – Site meeting with DNR & WSU to gather samples
- Mar-April 2021 – Positive samples, SBD Seminar planned through WSU
- May 2021 – Grant opportunity for FS funding submitted & confirmed
- June 2021 – Sooty Bark Disease Seminar
- July 2021 – Seattle Times article released, media communications protocol reviewed & created
- Aug 2021 – Inventorying state agencies for support
- Sept 2021 – Larger meeting with state partners, FS funding received
- Oct 2021 – Urban Forestry Commission briefing, first official messaging meeting

Samples

Positive

- *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- *Acer macrophyllum*
- *Acer platanoides*
- *Acer japonicum*
- *Acer rubrum*
- *Acer palmatum*
- *Acer campestre*
- *Prunus cerasifera*

In Process

- Retesting existing positive Acer samples

Partners & Stakeholders

Research

- Washington State University
- WA Dept of Natural Resources
- WA Dept of Agriculture

Messaging

- Washington State University
- WA Dept of Health
- Public Health Seattle King County
- Labor & Industries
- Washington Invasive Species Council

Washington State University and the City of Seattle Present:
**SOOTY BARK DISEASE IN SEATTLE:
LESSONS FROM
EUROPE**



**Sooty bark disease in Europe:
an overview**

Rasmus Enderle & Janett Riebesehl
Institute for Plant Protection in Horticulture and
Forests, Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) –
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants,
Braunschweig, Germany

**Sooty bark disease: an issue
at the Plant Protection Service
in Northrhine Westfalia**

Monika Heupel
Chamber of Northrhine Westfalia
Diagnostics Plant Diseases
Plant Protection Service,
Köln, Germany

**Investigating the spread of *C.
corticale* in Hesse and Germany,
including asymptomatic
infections**

Rebekka Schlösser & Gitta Langer
Department of Forest Protection, Northwest
German Forest Research Institute,
Göttingen, Germany.



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

**Virtual Meeting
8-10AM on June 17, 2021
Register at:**

<https://ppo.puyallup.wsu.edu/webinar>

Questions? Contact Stephanie at Stephanie.Helms@seattle.gov



Seattle

Sooty Bark Disease Seminar

- Guest speakers from Germany
- Behavior & impact of fungal pathogen
- Sanitation, disposal, & proper handling
- Need for unified message

Where do we go from here?

Response

- Established collaboration between Health agencies and research & resource management agencies
- Developing unified messaging – for both environmental and human impacts
- Pulling in other CoS Departments
- Disposal & sanitation

Research

- WSU & SPR Grant funding & resources
 1. WSU Monthly info sessions
- Mapping distribution & impact
- Sampling assistance from WSDA
- Possible Forest Monitoring proposal from DNR
- Contact with colleagues from Europe

Why is this work important?

Direct impacts

- Should this be managed?
- How should it be managed?
- Growing impacts to our urban forest?
- Another piece to the climate change puzzle?
- Just another fungus among us?

Pest Readiness Practice

- Upcoming CoS Invasive Pest Response Plan
- WA State Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook → it works!
- Grows our network in case of an invasive pest outbreak

THANK YOU!

Stephanie.Helms@seattle.gov

SDOT Urban Forestry, Seattle Committee on Invasive Pests

WSU's Sooty Bark Disease page:
<https://ppo.puyallup.wsu.edu/sbd/>

www.seattle.gov/transportation

