

Plant Disease in Kansas

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Kansas Department of Agriculture

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Adrian Polansky, Secretary
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Ice storm hits Kansas; Decayed trees topple

Special points of interest:

- *About 80 per cent of the damage to trees was associated with decay or heart rot.*

A significant ice storm swept across much of Kansas causing significant damage to trees. I made a journey through Manhattan yesterday taking images of trees with major damage.

About 80 per cent of the damage was associated with decay or heart rot. Many biological and non biological causes predispose trees to decay by bacteria and slow rotting fungi. Decay problems are usually not evident till weather events such as this ice storm expose the weaknesses in the wood.

I have inserted various images of decayed trunks and limbs and some of the issues surrounding the damage when it was evident.



Unknown tree with heart rot



Crabapple with decay near prune cut.



Red bud with limb rot likely caused by fungi.



Unknown tree with decay in branch..



Heart rot in unknown tree.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

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Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.



Left: Cedar tree which originally was struck by lightning, had decay in the crown and split down the middle.



Right: Large oak tree with rotted root system.



Left: Unknown tree with white fungi mycelium in area of break.



Right: Scotch pine with heart rot from unknown cause.