



The Town of Blackfalds is embarking on a campaign to control Bronze Leaf Disease throughout the town. With the help of our residences, we can rid ourselves of this pest permanently.

What is Bronze Leaf Disease?

Bronze Leaf disease is a fungal infection that affects Poplar (Populus spp.) trees, for example Swedish Columnar Aspen, Tower Poplars, Trembling Aspen and other hybrids. This fungus has been known to kill trees after 5 years of infection.

Hosts:

Poplar Species (Populus spp.)
Swedish Columnar Aspen, Tower Poplar and Trembling Aspen.

Recognizing Bronze Leaf Disease:

As the common name suggests, the leaves affected by this fungus will turn a bronze or reddish brown colour starting at the outside edges moving inward to the veins of the leaves. Typically the veins and stems of the leaf stay their vibrant green colour. Usually, the infection starts at the bottom branches of the tree, but may be found throughout the tree. If a branch is infected the leaves may stay on the tree for the winter season.

In the early stage of leaf formation, some Aspen like Swedish Columnar, have leaves that start out bronze and eventually turn green. If you're not sure if your tree is infected, call your local garden center or landscape gardener.

Why should we manage Bronze Leaf Disease?

Alberta has a high population of Poplar and Aspen trees in our urban and rural landscapes. Managing this fungus will help keep Alberta's natural green spaces, forests and urban area healthy and green. Most of our Poplars and Aspen are used in windbreaks, shelter belts and as shade trees. Losing this resource would drastically change Alberta's natural ecosystem and beauty.

Controls:

Bronze Leaf Disease is relatively new to Alberta; we would like to control it as quickly as possible.

- Visually inspect your Poplar and Aspen trees in the spring when the fungus is highly active.
- If infection is found remove the infected branch at least 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 inches) below infected leaves at proper pruning point. We recommend that you educate yourself on proper pruning techniques or hire a certified Arborist or Landscape Gardener.
- Clean and disinfect cutting blades after infected areas of the plant have been successfully removed.
- Bag all diseased wood, including leaves that have fallen off the tree, and take it to our local transfer station to be burned in a timely manner.
- Keeping your plants happy and healthy with regular pruning, watering and fertilizing is the most effective way of protecting plants from disease and insects.

Diseased wood must be destroyed immediately by burning.

For more information about Bronze Leaf Disease, please visit the [Government of Alberta's website](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/faq15032) or [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/faq15032](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/faq15032)



For more information contact:

Landscape Horticulturist | Town of Blackfalds | 403.885.4677