

Hornbeam canker, a disease affecting the European hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya carpinifolia*), primarily manifests as cankers on stems and branches, often leading to dieback. Several fungal species have been linked to this disease, with *Diaporthe decedens* being a particularly aggressive pathogen. Symptoms include wilt or dieback of branches, and cankers may appear sunken or darkened, with discolored wood beneath the bark.

Specifics of Hornbeam Canker:

Fungal Causes:

*Diaporthe decedens*, *Dothiorella parva*, and *Pezicula sporulosa* have been identified as common culprits.

Symptoms:

Cankers on stems and branches.

Crown dieback, especially at the beginning of the growing season.

Wilting or dieback of branches.

Discolored wood beneath the bark, ranging from brown to reddish-brown.

Cankers may appear sunken and darkened.

Impact:

Extensive cankers and dieback can significantly impact the health and vigor of hop-hornbeam trees, particularly considering their role as a pioneer species.

Disease Spread:

The spread of hornbeam canker can be influenced by factors like climate change and stress on trees, potentially leading to increased disease incidence in certain regions.