



# Kansas Plant Pest Alert

Kansas Department of Agriculture • Plant Protection and Weed Control • (785) 564-6698 • agriculture.ks.gov

## Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut

Dear Stakeholder,

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is asking landowners, arborists, woodworkers, the timber industry and the public to be on the lookout for a new disease affecting walnut trees: thousand cankers disease. Early detection is very important.

We need your help to detect this disease, which threatens our black walnuts in native woodlands, planted woodlots and the landscape.

The disease may enter Kansas by the natural movement of the bark beetle, or human activity such as moving firewood, nursery stock, or untreated wood or logs.

If you think you have seen evidence of this disease, notify our Plant Protection and Weed Control program immediately at (785) 564-6698.

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Plant Protection and Weed Control

### What is it?

- The disease is caused by the fungus, *Geosmithia* that causes a black canker.
- TCD is transmitted by the walnut twig beetle, 1/16 of an inch in length.



W. Cranshaw, CSU

### Where does it come from?

- The disease is found in states primarily west of Kansas, including Colorado and New Mexico but also Tennessee.

### What should I look for?

- Upper crowns yellowing and thinning, then branches die and the entire tree may suddenly wilt and die. Small black cankers are just under the bark with insect galleries.
- Trees die within about three years from initial symptoms.

### Who should I call if I find it?

- Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 564-6698.



**Do not move  
walnut trees or  
untreated wood  
into Kansas.**

Above: late stage wilting, dying walnut (M. Mielke, U.S Forest Service)

Right: Dark cankers directly under the bark found on branch (J. Appel, KDA)



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