

Lookalikes and Other Beech Phenomena

Review the table below for other issues you may see on beech trees. It is possible for a beech tree to exhibit symptoms of both beech leaf disease and any of these other impacts simultaneously.

DEC is [interested in reports](#) of leaf striping or curling associated with BLD on any beech tree, but we do not manage the other issues listed in the table.

If you have questions about any of the diseases or phenomena listed in the table, please click "learn more" in the "About" column.

Name	Signs and Symptoms	About
<p>Beech bark disease (BBD)</p>	<p>Symptoms: The symptoms of this disease are concentrated on the bark. A white, fuzzy coating on the tree's trunk and branches is a sign of the scale insect.</p>  <p>Photo by Linda Haugen, USDA FS, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Beech bark disease is the result of the combined effects of a non-native scale insect and a canker fungi. The insect pierces and sucks at the tree, allowing the fungus to enter and cause harm internally. This disease is common across New York State and is not managed by DEC.</p> <p>Most trees die within 10 years of infestation by the insect and fungi.</p> <p>Learn more (leaves DEC website).</p>
<p>Erineum patch</p>	<p>Symptoms: Yellowish patches appear on the upper side of the leaf. The patches are light green in spring, then fade to orange and eventually brown.</p>	<p>Erineum patch is caused by eriophyid mites and is not typically viewed as a problem. The patches rarely cover enough of the leaf to affect the overall health of the tree.</p> <p>Learn more (leaves DEC website).</p>



Photo by Eric R. Day, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Bugwood.org

Powdery mildew is caused by native fungi and affects a variety of shrubs and trees. This is a cosmetic disease that does not kill the tree but could cause defoliation if not addressed.

[Learn more \(leaves DEC website\).](#)

Anthracnose affects a variety of tree species and is caused by a group of fungi. In beech, the fungi infect the leaves and stems and can cause dieback or some defoliation. The disease thrives in years where there are cool, wet conditions during bud break.

[Learn more \(leaves DEC website\).](#)

Symptoms: Leaves and stems appear to be covered in a white, powdery substance that resembles powdered sugar.



Photo by University of Georgia Plant Pathology, Bugwood.org

Powdery mildew

Anthracnose

Symptoms: Small brown or black spots on leaves that eventually cause dead areas. New leaves may curl.



Photo by Nancy Gregory, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org

Signs: These native insects have a fluffy, white outer coating. Also known as "boogie woogie aphids", the insects will shake or "dance" when the branch is disturbed in order to ward off potential predators.



Photo by Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org

This insect is native and feeds on beech without causing much harm.

[Learn more \(leaves DEC website\).](#)

Beech blight aphid

Beech leaf rolling aphid

Signs: Leaves may curl and appear yellow/faded between the veins.

These injuries are caused by aphids feeding on the leaves. This insect is native and feeds on beech without causing much harm.

[Learn more \(leaves DEC website\).](#)



Signs: Beech retain their dead leaves through the winter.



Marcescence

This is a totally normal, common, and harmless feature of beech.

[Learn more \(leaves DEC website\).](#)