The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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PRESS RELEASE

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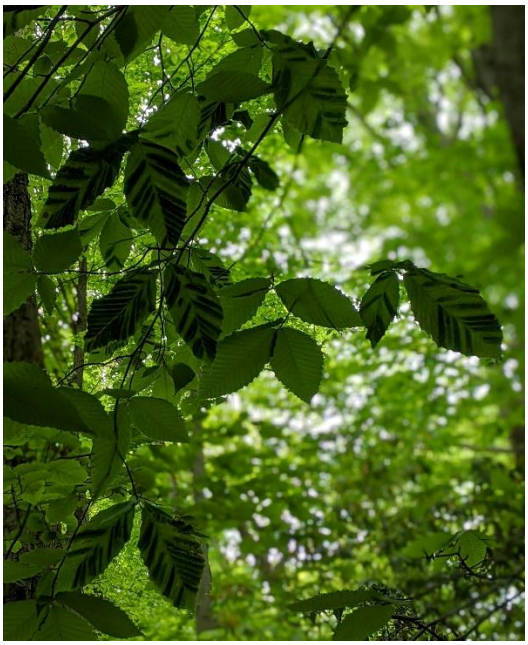
CAES Announces First Report of Beech Leaf Disease in Hamden and New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven, CT – Scientists from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) have identified Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) on American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) at locations in Guilford, Hamden and New Haven, CT, following its first appearance in Connecticut in 2019 in lower Fairfield County. This disease, which can kill trees within seven years of detection, was first discovered in 2012 in Ohio, followed in subsequent years by detections in Pennsylvania, western New York, and Ontario, Canada. With funding support from the US Forest Service, surveys are underway to assess the extent of the disease in CT.

Symptomatic leaves collected from these sites tested positive by molecular assay for the newly described nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*, which has been confirmed to be the causal agent of BLD. The nematode appears to cause disease on only *F. grandifolia* and *F. sylvatica* (European beech). Scientists at CAES have joined forces with researchers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario (Canada), and at USDA-ARS to study disease development, transmission, and management.

The symptoms on beech foliage, best observed from below looking up into the canopy, are characterized by dark striping between leaf veins, as pictured. Members of the public are encouraged to report any findings of similar symptoms on beech to CAES scientists Robert Marra (Robert.Marra@ct.gov) or James LaMondia (James.LaMondia@ct.gov).



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