

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Thousand Cankers Disease



Thousand Cankers Disease was first identified in Colorado black walnuts. It is a fungus, *Geosmithia morbida*, which is spread by the walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorus juglandis*. Thousand Cankers Disease, true to its name, causes numerous dark cankers surrounding the walnut twig beetle galleries and eventually kills the tree. The disease and walnut twig beetle are both native to the western USA, though little evidence of walnut mortality was found prior to 2003. It has since been found in most Rocky Mountain and west coast states from New Mexico to Washington.

In 2010, Thousand Cankers Disease was found in Knoxville, TN. This was the first report in the Eastern USA. It has since been found in isolated areas of Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana. In 2014, Thousand Cankers Disease was detected in Maryland a few miles west of the Delaware state line near Newark.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture set traps for Walnut twig beetle in 2014. Traps were located statewide and many were near Newark. We have also done visual surveys for Thousand cankers disease for several years. So far, neither Walnut twig beetle nor Thousand cankers disease have been found in Delaware.

There is no Federal quarantine for Thousand cankers disease. Several states, including Maryland and Pennsylvania, have enacted their own quarantines to restrict the movement of walnut out of infested areas.



Learn more about Thousand Cankers Disease at <http://www.thousandcankers.com>. Contact Jimmy Kroon, Environmental Scientist II at the Delaware Department of Agriculture with questions, concerns or possible reports of Thousand Cankers Disease in Delaware. 302-698-4586 or jimmy.kroon@state.de.us