

# Honey Fungus Notes

## Symptoms

**On the plant:** Clear away some soil from the base of the plant. On the root and where they join the stem, peel back the bark. If there are sheets of white or creamy coloured fungus (quite often fan-shaped) combined with a strong mushroom like smell, then this is an indication that the fungus may be present, especially if the bark is soft and blackened.

**In the soil:** Also known as bootlace fungus because of the possible presence of black or brown cords in the soil. These are known as 'Rhizomorphs'.

**Toadstools:** These are produced only now and again, depending on climate. They form dense clumps and vary in colour although the cap or stalk is often honey coloured.

## Control

If honey fungus is found then you must remove all the affected plant (either dead or dying) together with as much root system as possible. You must also take out any Rhizomorphs that are present.

As much of the infected soil as possible must be removed. This can be reused in the vegetable garden as few vegetables are attacked by honey fungus and not usually a problem due to the rapid turnover of crops. Do not plant potatoes in infected soil.

Rotting tree stumps provide ideal conditions for honey fungus so removal is important. Do this by digging out or stump grinding. If this is not possible then treat the stump with Root-Out to promote decay and discourage any honey fungus.

Plants that are healthy and well are less likely to be infected. Feed well to keep them resistant. If they are likely to dry out then water well and mulch to retain moisture.

## Plants most likely to be resistant to Honey Fungus

Acer negundo, Arundinaria, Aucuba, Buxus sempervirens, Castanea, Catalpa, Cercidiphyllum, Cercis, Clematis, Cornus, Cotinus coggygia, Fagus sylvatica, Fraxinus excelsior, Gleditsia, Griselinia, Hebe, Hippophae, Juniperus, Larix, Lavatera, Liquidamber styraciflua, Lonicera nitida, Morus, Nandina, Pittosporum, Prunus laurocerasus, Prunus spinosa, Quercus, Rhamnus, Robinia, Sambucus, Laurus nobilis, Symphoricarpos, Taxus, Tilia, Ulex, Yucca.

## Plants most likely to be susceptible to Honey Fungus

Acer (except Acer negundo), Araucaria araucana, Betula (Silver Birch), Ceanothus, Cedrus, Chamaecyparis, Cotoneaster, Crataegus, Cupressus leylandii, Hamamelis, Juglans regia, Laburnum, Ligustrum, Malus, Picea omorika, Pinus, Prunus (except P. laurocerasus & P. spinosa), Rhododendron, Rosa, Salix, Sequoia giganteum, Thuja plicata, Ulmus, Viburnum, Wisteria.