

Honey Fungus

Symptoms

On the plant: Clear away some soil from the base of the plant. Peel away some of the bark from the main trunk at ground level. If there are sheets of white or creamy coloured fungus (sometimes 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 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 of these 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 are less likely to be infected. An annual feed and mulch will help promote resistance and maintain water in summer.

Plants most likely to be resistant to Honey Fungus

Acer negundo, Arundinaria, Aucuba, Buxus sempervirens, Castanea, Catalpa, Cercidiphyllum, Cercis, Clematis, Cornus, Cotinus coggygria, Fagus sylvatica, Fraxinus excelsior, Gleditsia, Griselinia, Hebe, Hippophae, Juniperus, Larix, Lavatera, Liquidambar 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.