

## Phytophthora lateralis



*Phytophthora lateralis* is a fungus-like plant pathogen which can kill trees, mainly in the genus *Chamaecyparis*. Lawson's cypress (*C.lawsoniana*) is the primary host but other susceptible species include *C.pisifera* (Sawara cypress) and *Thuja plicata* (Western red-cedar). The pathogen attacks and kills the roots of the host, although aerial infections of branches and foliage also occur.

*P.lateralis* was first discovered in the UK in 2010. There are two lineages present in the UK; one which occurs on the Pacific NW of the USA, and the other which to date has only been found in Scotland. The different genetic lineages suggest that separate, independent introductions have occurred. Lawson cypress and its many cultivated varieties are among the most important conifers in the UK ornamental plant trade.



**Don't give**  
pests and  
diseases  
an easy ride



If you think you have spotted a new case of this disease in a tree, then report it through the Forestry Commission's online Tree Alert form: [forestry.gov.uk/trealert](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/trealert)

You can help to slow the spread of this disease by practising good biosecurity.



### Think kit

Before leaving site, all soil and organic material should be removed from footwear, outerwear and equipment, before being washed, cleaned and sprayed with an approved disinfectant.



### Think transport

Vehicles that have gone off-road or have been driven on roads that are wet, muddy or littered with organic material must be cleaned using a pressure washer before leaving the site.



### Think trees

Infected trees should be felled and destroyed, either by burning, or chipping and deep burial – provided that no other Lawson cypress trees are in the vicinity.

## Symptoms Guide: *Phytophthora lateralis*



### Attack from the base

When roots and collars/stem bases are affected, the foliage of infected trees initially turns a pale green, then a reddish-brown as the tree dies.



### Basal infection

When the outer bark is cut away at the base of infected trees, a discoloured phloem (inner bark) is revealed. It is usually cinnamon brown in colour and there is a distinct colour difference between the infected and healthy tissues.

### Aerial infection

The pathogen will also occasionally attack the stem or individual branches.



### Isolated patches

Aerial infection causes the foliage to turn bronze or brown in large, isolated patches in the crown.



A number of other disorders can produce symptoms similar to those caused by *Phytophthora lateralis*, such as honey fungus (*Amillaria spp.*) and other root-infecting phytophthoras.

For more details, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/plateralis](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/plateralis)