CEDAR LEAF BLIGHT

Didymascella thujina (Durand) Maire

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout the province, following the range of western redcedar.

Figure 196. Infected western redcedar branchlets.

HOST SUSCEPTIBILITY:

Western redcedar. All ages are susceptible, but it is most prevalent on young seedlings and the lower branches of older trees.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

Infected leaves turn reddish-brown over the summer. The infected leaves are usually conspicuous against healthy green foliage. In fall, some infected leaf twigs are shed. Older twigs still attached to the branch become ashy grey. Small black cavities will be found on the upper surfaces of infected leaves. These holes are left after the fruiting bodies dry up and fall out. Dense stands growing on wetter sites are most affected.

Figure 197. Holes left in fruiting bodies.

DAMAGE:

Overall losses from this disease are low, although seedlings and saplings may suffer mortality. Older trees may exhibit growth reduction, dead branches, and rare mortality. High densities and high humidity

in forest nurseries are ideal for this disease, where it can be a serious problem.

SIMILAR DAMAGE:

Cedar leaf blight can be confused with normal autumnal colour changes. However, seasonal colour changes affect the entire tree as opposed to the scattered twigs affected by cedar leaf blight. The holes remaining in the leaves after the fruiting bodies fall out can be mistaken for insect feeding punctures. Cedar flagging affects scattered branches in a similar fashion, but the black fruiting bodies or holes left from them are not present.

Figure 198. Developing fruiting structures.