

## Columnar Oak

(*Quercus* spp. — Columnar English Oak, Crimson Spire Oak, Regal Prince Oak, Fastigiata Hybrids)

Columnar Oaks are prized for their **narrow, upright form, strong structure**, and **tolerance to many Colorado soils**. They resist many major oak pests but can experience **oak anthracnose, tubakia leaf spot, scale, borers, gall wasps**, and **environmental scorch** during hot, dry summers.



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## Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
<b>Anthracnose (cool, wet years)</b>	Fungus	Spring	🌸
<b>Tubakia leaf spot</b>	Fungus	Summer–Fall	☀️ 🍂
<b>Kermes &amp; other scale insects</b>	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	🌸 ❄️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
<b>Borers (two-lined chestnut borer)</b>	Insect/borer	Summer	
<b>Oak gall wasps</b>	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
<b>Aphids</b>	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
<b>Environmental heat/drought scorch</b>	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

### **Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Anthracnose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blighted, misshapen young leaves</li> <li>• Browning along veins</li> <li>• Early leaf drop (cool, wet springs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually cosmetic</li> <li>• Remove fallen leaves</li> <li>• No treatment needed in most cases</li> </ul>
<b>Tubakia Leaf Spot (Common in Colorado)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown circular leaf spots late summer</li> <li>• Premature fall color</li> <li>• Defoliation in severe years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rake/remove leaves</li> <li>• Water deeply in drought</li> <li>• Fungicide only in repeated severe outbreaks</li> </ul>
<b>Scale (Kermes, soft scale)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small bumps on twigs</li> <li>• Honeydew + sooty mold</li> <li>• Thin canopy with sticky residue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormant oil in late winter</li> <li>• Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>• Prune infested twigs</li> </ul>

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Borers (Two-lined Chestnut Borer)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy thinning from top downward</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> <li>• Exit holes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep tree watered + unstressed</li> <li>• Avoid trunk wounds</li> <li>• Professional preventive spray if detected early</li> </ul>
<b>Oak Gall Wasps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round or irregular galls on leaves or twigs</li> <li>• Usually cosmetic</li> <li>• Rarely causes decline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No treatment required</li> <li>• Prune out twig galls if desired</li> </ul>
<b>Aphids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Sooty mold</li> <li>• Minor leaf curling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose-rinse foliage</li> <li>• Encourage natural predators</li> <li>• Systemic treatment if severe</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Heat/Drought Scorch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown, crispy edges</li> <li>• Early fall color</li> <li>• Sparse canopy in drought years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep watering every 2–3 weeks</li> <li>• Mulch 2–4" (not touching trunk)</li> </ul>

### When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

#### ● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Top-down dieback (potential **borer**)
- Repeated severe Tubakia leaf spot defoliation
- Heavy Kermes scale with honeydew and mold
- Significant canopy thinning year-over-year
- Persistent scorch even with correct watering
- Cracks or oozing sap at trunk (possible canker or borer entry)

Columnar oaks usually decline only when **stressed**, so improving soil and watering is key.

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● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light anthracnose in spring
- Minor Tubakia spotting late summer
- Small galls on leaves or twigs
- Mild scorch during extreme heat waves
- Occasional aphid honeydew

These issues rarely threaten the tree and usually resolve with seasonal changes.