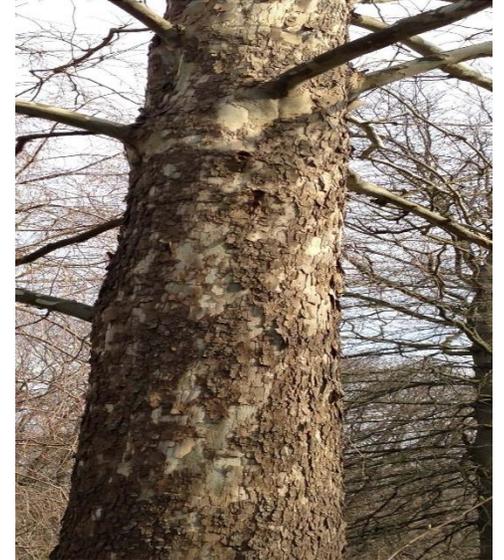


## Sycamore

(*Platanus occidentalis* – American Sycamore; *Platanus × acerifolia* – London Planetree)

Sycamores and their hybrid London Planetrees are widely planted in Colorado for their **massive size, attractive mottled bark, and excellent shade**. While generally tough, they are prone to **anthracnose, powdery mildew, leaf scorch, borers, and cankers**, especially when stressed by heat or drought.



## Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
<b>Anthraxnose (major issue)</b>	Fungus	Spring infection; symptoms Spring–Early Summer	🌸 ☀️
<b>Powdery mildew</b>	Fungus	Summer–Fall	☀️ 🍂

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
<b>Sycamore lace bug</b>	Insect	Summer	
<b>Scale insects</b>	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 
<b>Borer insects</b>	Insect/borer	Summer	
<b>Canker diseases</b>	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
<b>Leaf scorch (heat/drought)</b>	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Anthracnose (Most Common Sycamore Issue)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browning and curling young leaves</li> <li>• Twig dieback in spring</li> <li>• Defoliation early in season</li> <li>• Scattered dead twigs (“flagging”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove fallen leaves &amp; dead twigs</li> <li>• Promote airflow (prune interior branches)</li> <li>• Fungicides may help if applied early by pros</li> </ul>
<b>Powdery Mildew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White powdery coating on leaves</li> <li>• Reduced vigor if severe</li> <li>• Common in late summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve airflow</li> <li>• Avoid overhead irrigation</li> <li>• Fungicide only for severe, repeated outbreaks</li> </ul>

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Common Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Treatment &amp; Management</u></b>
<b>Sycamore Lace Bug</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow stippling on leaf surface</li> <li>• Tiny insects on underside of leaves</li> <li>• Premature browning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose-rinse foliage</li> <li>• Encourage natural predators</li> <li>• Pro treatment if infestation is severe</li> </ul>
<b>Scale Insects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Black sooty mold</li> <li>• Hard or cottony bumps on bark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>• Horticultural oil in late winter</li> <li>• Prune heavily infested branches</li> </ul>
<b>Borers (Agrilus, others)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit holes</li> <li>• Sawdust-like frass</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep watering during drought</li> <li>• Avoid bark injury</li> <li>• Pro preventive bark sprays if activity present</li> </ul>
<b>Canker Diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunken or cracked bark patches</li> <li>• Oozing sap</li> <li>• Branch dieback beginning at tips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune out infected limbs</li> <li>• Sanitize tools</li> <li>• Increase vigor—no chemical cure</li> </ul>
<b>Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browning leaf edges</li> <li>• Early leaf drop</li> <li>• Entire canopy may look “burned” in hot summers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep water every 2–3 weeks</li> <li>• Mulch to cool soil</li> <li>• Avoid reflected heat sites when planting</li> </ul>

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### **When to Worry vs. When It’s Cosmetic**

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

- Repeated severe anthracnose causing multiple years of spring defoliation
- Large cankers spreading along major limbs
- Borer exit holes with thinning canopy
- Heavy scale infestation with sticky honeydew and soot

- Fast-progressing dieback in upper canopy
- Major limb failure (sycamores are VERY large, posing hazard potential)

These situations require **professional evaluation** due to sycamores' large size and structural weight.

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### ● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light anthracnose or minor spring twig dieback
- Powdery mildew patches in summer
- Occasional lace bugs without major browning
- Some scorch during drought years
- Early leaf drop in extreme heat

These issues typically resolve with **basic watering and seasonal recovery**.