

What is Ceratocystis wilt and canker?

Ceratocystis wilt of eucalypts is a fungal disease caused by a species of *Ceratocystis*. Different species of the fungus have been associated with wilt of eucalypts globally. The disease is considered to be one of the two most serious diseases of eucalypts in Brazil.

Infection by *Ceratocystis* sp. most commonly results in a rapid wilt and death of the entire tree. It may affect plants of all ages.

What are the symptoms?

Rapid wilting of leaves. This may start with a single branch, or the entire tree at once. Leaves stay attached to the branches (Figure A). Lesions may or may not be present in the bark. Cutting into the bark will reveal speckling/spotting in the bark (Figure B). Cutting longitudinally through the bark into the wood will reveal brown streaks in the wood (Figures C, D). Cross-cutting of the stem will reveal radiating patterns of wood discolouration / streaking (Figure E).

Impact

Wilting and death of trees.

Management

Selection and breeding of disease tolerant/resistant genotypes. *Ceratocystis* species require wounds for infection. Prevention of wounds will reduce chances of disease.

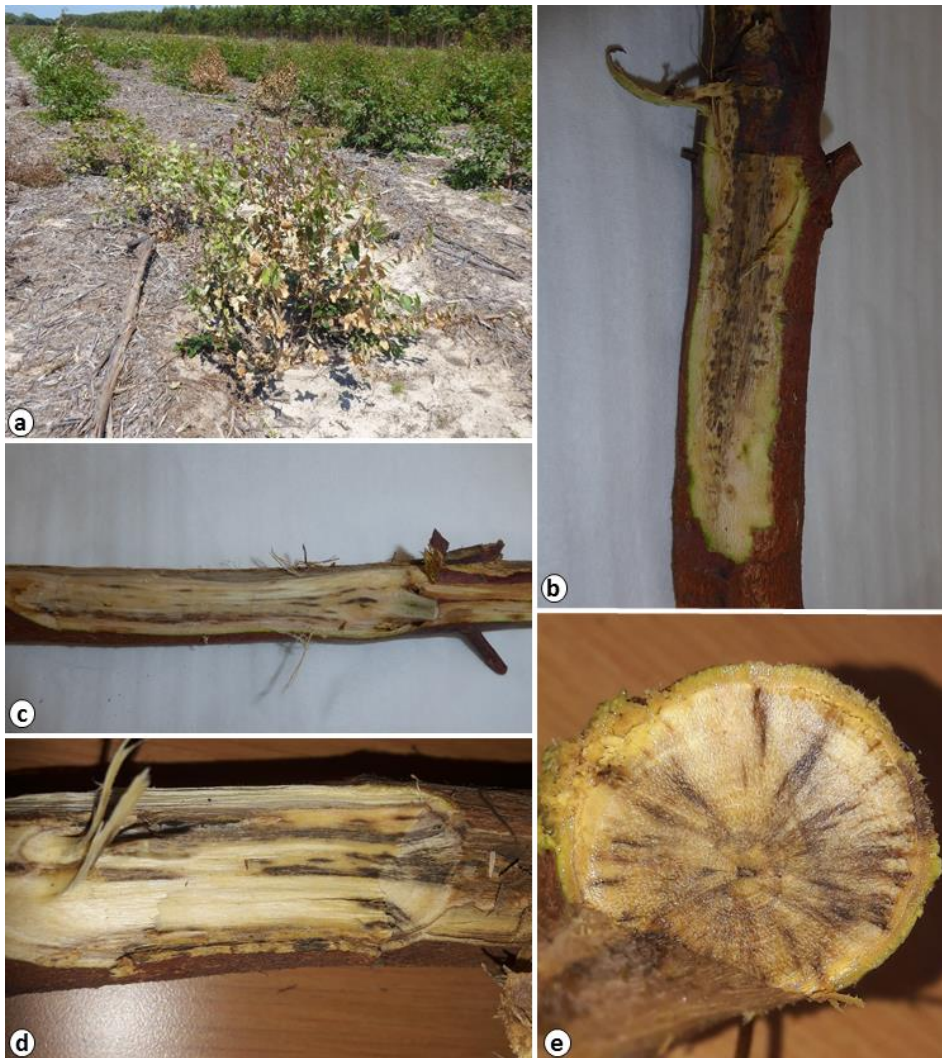


Figure: Signs and symptoms of Ceratocystis wilt and canker disease of eucalypts. (a) Wilting of leaves and death of trees, (b) speckling in the bark when cutting into the bark, (c, d, e) streaks in the cambium and wood.

Please contact the Pest and Diseases team at Shaw Research Centre if you notice the disease on your plants

Upcoming Events

Event	Dates	Venue	Contact
TPCP Annual Symposium	14 – 16 May	University of Pretoria	admin@fabi.up.ac.za

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