

Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut Quarantine

The Kansas Department of Agriculture enacted a quarantine order on November 20, 2014 and rescinds and supersedes the quarantine issued on July 20, 2010, to prevent the introduction of thousand cankers disease of walnut into Kansas.

Walnut in the Kansas Landscape

The walnut tree is the most valuable timber crop in Kansas. It provides an important nut crop, it is part of our state's heritage and it is a tree of importance in our urban landscape, windbreaks and native ecosystems.

Survey has shown that Kansas is currently free of the disease, so the quarantine is to prevent the introduction of the disease into Kansas.

Two species of walnut are regulated and protected from this disease in the quarantine. They are the black walnut, *Juglans nigra*, and the little walnut, *Juglans microcarpa*.

What You Need to Know About Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut

Thousand cankers disease of walnut is a progressive disease that kills a tree within two to three years of infection.

Trees with the disease have yellowing and thinning upper crowns and dying branches. Eventually, the tree will wilt and die. Small black cankers just under the bark will have insect galleries.

The disease-causing fungus, *Geosmithia sp.*, is transmitted by a small twig beetle. Branches and trunk tissue are killed by repeated infections by

the fungus, as beetles carry the fungus into new bark cambium tissue, repeating the infection. That's why it is called thousand cankers disease.

The shaved branch of thousand canker disease in advanced stage. Photo courtesy of Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University.



The walnut twig beetle is a minute, yellow-brownish beetle about the size of a pencil lead. It's native to North America, but strayed from its native host, the Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*).

Walnut twig beetle, side view. Photograph by Jim LaBonte, Oregon Department of Agriculture.



What This Quarantine Requires

Under the quarantine order, regulated articles of the genera *Juglans* generally include (1) all plants, plant parts and products; (2) logs, lumber, firewood, bark, mulch and packing material; (3) the disease causing fungus; and (4) the walnut twig beetle.

Persons who handle regulated articles within Kansas must register with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Registration procedures will be announced in the near future.

Those who import regulated articles into Kansas must enter into a compliance agreement with the

Kansas Department of Agriculture regarding handling and documentation of the regulated articles.

Regulated articles from states known to be infested with thousand cankers disease, or from states that do not conduct an annual survey for the disease, must be inspected and certified free of the disease and the walnut twig beetle before entry into Kansas. Articles from states known to be infested must be free of bark.

Regulated articles from states that complete annual surveys and are found free of the disease and twig beetle do not need to be inspected prior to importation into Kansas.

Human activity with firewood, logs, boards and packing material poses a great risk for moving the disease and the twig beetle into Kansas.

Items Exempt From the Quarantine

Exempted from the quarantine are nuts, nut meat, hulls, finished wood products and processed lumber from states where the disease has not been detected.

Penalty for Violating the Quarantine

Anyone who violates the quarantine is subject to criminal prosecution, civil penalties and expenses associated with the mitigating the violation.

What to Do If You Suspect the Disease

Individuals who suspect or know the disease is present in regulated articles must report it to the Kansas Department of Agriculture within 14 days. Movement of such article is prohibited.

Education and Survey Work

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will work closely with the public, industry, conservation groups, and other state and federal agencies to protect walnuts in Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will look for the disease by conducting surveys and annual inspections of walnut trees, harvest sites and handling facilities.

If necessary, the Kansas Department of Agriculture may take further action to address the quarantine, including eradication and suppression activities.

Where to Look for Quarantine Updates

Quarantine updates and more information may be found online at agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control

Where to Learn More About Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut

Kansas Department of Agriculture
agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/thousand-cankers-disease

Kansas Forest Service
www.kansasforests.org/programs/health/tcd.shtml

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut"
www.thousandcankers.com/publications.php

Walnut Council
www.walnutcouncil.org/