

The most common pests and diseases found on plantations:

ARMILLARIA ROOT AND BUTT ROT -

Most commonly attacks eucalypts. The fungus develops under the bark and crown dieback is a major sign

DOTHISTROMA NEEDLE BLIGHT -

A fungus that infects the needles of the radiata pine. It can cause the needles to shed prematurely and several infections can cause defoliation, loss of growth and eventual death. Look for a red-brown discolouration in the crown. The infected needles have distinctive red bands

CHRYSOMELID LEAF BEETLES -

This beetle looks like a large dull green ladybird and has a voracious appetite. They often attack new spring growth and leave the leaf with a scalloped edge. Eucalypts are particularly susceptible

GUM LEAF SKELTONIZER MOTH -

A hairy yellow and brown caterpillar that will eat a leaf until it has a lace-like appearance. They often appear in large numbers and especially like young stringybarks and peppermint eucalypts

AUTUMN GUM MOTH -

Large caterpillars that defoliate young blue gums in plantations. Usually only the leaf mid rib is left and a larval shelter can be found at the tip of the leaf concealing the caterpillars

SIREX WASP -

The female wasp bores into the trunk of radiata pine trees. Needles wilt and resin beads may be seen around the entry holes on the bark. Unthinned or drought-stressed plantations older than 10 years are most vulnerable

SAWFLIES -

Commonly known as spitfire grubs, they cluster together on mass and when disturbed they rear up and emit a yellow fluid. They are usually found on the foliage of stringybarks and white gum. Individual trees can be completely defoliated though large areas of damage are not usual

CINNAMON FUNGUS -

A root rot fungus that targets the fine roots, progressively starving the tree of water and nutrients. Trees under stress due to waterlogging, major bark loss or following fire are particularly susceptible. Look for signs of dieback from the crown downwards

