



CONTEST TIME IS BACK!!



Name That Leaf

Our contest that gives you fabulous prizes for simply remembering what you know. So, can you name this leaf? If so, phone, fax or email the name to Josh at: [josh@robinsonnursery.com](mailto:josh@robinsonnursery.com). The winner will be drawn from all the correct answers received by Dec. 10. The prize: One bundle of 10 or two bundles of 5 of the tree of your choice.

Tree variety and size subject to availability; all prizes for the nursery; employees or family members not eligible; income tax, surtax, luxury tax, sales tax, inventory tax, value added tax, property tax, consumption tax, excise tax, tariffs, tolls, or transfer tax, inflation tax, and deflation tax are the responsibility of the winner.



A boy went to war in 1914 and left his bike chained to a small tree. He never made it home and his family left the bike by the tree in his memory. This is that tree today.

## Humongous Fungus

Verticillium, my old friend ~ you've come to mess with me again  
Your Sclerotia quietly waiting ~ in the soil softly waiting  
Then you strike, plugging all my xylem tubes ~ with greenish goobs  
Until I wilt ~ and am no more.

*Apologies to Simon and Garfunkle*

Tree growers know this villain: Verticillium. It survives in plant litter, and its microsclerotia can persist in the soil for more than 10 years. It infects over 300 species, including trees, shrubs, perennials, food crops, and many weed varieties.

Once your soil is infected, there is little you can do to be rid of it. Fumigation has proven to help, but it is expensive and the chemicals may not be available for long. Solarization seems to work, but how far down into the soil is it effective? From the University of Greenwich in England comes word that Brassica seed meal, and also Lavender waste, has anti-Verticillium properties when worked into soil. It is early days for the research, but if a grower had access to either item, it could be interesting to experiment.

So for now we are stuck with the usual methods of fighting this menace. Verticillium can occur in a spotty pattern in your fields. It seems to prefer wet, poorly drained areas, but can show up anywhere. Map your fields and plant resistant varieties where you know you have Vert. Sanitation is also crucial. Keep the weeds down, and clean fields of plant scrap after harvest. Hard to do when infected roots may be below our reach.

Always another problem, we know. But what can we do except just keep plodding along.

**We have finished switching our inventory numbers from estimates to field grade outs, look out for your acknowledgements this week.**