

## Eastern Filbert Blight

Anisogramma anomala

### Synonyms

None

### Plant Hosts

*Corylus avellana* (European hazelnut or filbert), *C. americana* (American hazelnut), *C. contorta* (contorted hazelnut), *C. maxima*, and other *Corylus* species. The two native species *C. cornuta* var. *cornuta* and *C. cornuta* var. *californica* and the Turkish hazelnut (*C. colurna*) appear to be resistant.

### Symptoms

About 12 to 15 months after infection, symptoms first appear on branches and twigs as sunken brown cankers. The cankers expand in all directions, but primarily along the length of the infected branch. Raised pustules form within the cankers starting in June and eventually mature into black stroma (fungal reproductive structure) around August to October. The stroma are raised about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an inch above the branch. Cankers enlarge and coalesce along infected branches, eventually girdling the limb. If left unchecked and depending upon the susceptibility of the variety infected, the trees will die within 7 to 15 years of becoming infected.



Image by OSU Extension

## **Transmission**

The fungal stroma release spores in a sticky, white ooze in response to wet weather. Wind-driven rain and splashing droplets spread the spores to young, developing shoots. Spores may travel several miles via this pathway. The disease may also be spread through the movement of infected plant materials, primarily the movement of infected ornamental contorted hazelnut.

## **Geographic Distribution**

The disease is native to the East coast of the United States and to Canada. It was introduced in the early 1990's to Washington and Oregon.

## **Applicable Regulations**

At the request of the hazelnut industry, the Oregon dept. of Agriculture recently established a [control area order](#) for eastern filbert blight. The order is designed to protect Oregon from new, more virulent strains of *A. anomala* present in the east.