

PEST: Thousand Cankers Disease (*Geosmithia morbida*)

BASIC PROFILE: TCD is a fungal disease of walnut trees that is vectored by the walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorus juglandis*. Early symptoms of TCD infection on trees include the presence of yellowing foliage that turns brown quickly, followed by branch dieback. Small round cankers develop behind the bark but usually are not visible externally. The presence of tiny beetles and shotgun holes on affected branches also may indicate TCD is present. The reddish brown beetle vector is ~1/16 inch (1.5 – 2 mm) long. Beetles carry the disease organism and create winding galleries in the wood beneath the tree bark. Over time, infected walnut trees die from this fungal disease.

LDAF ACTIVITY: TCD primarily is a disease of western states and has not been found in Louisiana. No federal or state quarantines are in place. LDAF may be conducting survey for TCD in the future if the need arises. Survey must be done visually, looking in areas for stands of walnut that may have TCD symptoms or beetle damage. Movement of infested walnut firewood is the most likely means of disease spread in the U.S. so, to prevent spread of pests/diseases, it is crucial not to move firewood across state lines.

