

Scots pine Enquiry 2024|1617

 David McKellar <david.mckellar@forestresearch.gov.uk>
To  Charlie Hunt

 You forwarded this message on 06/11/2024 13:23.



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Fri 11/10/2024 16:19

Your Ref: 121383,

Dear Mr Hunt,

We acknowledge the receipt of your communication on 26/09/2024 regarding the following:-

- Scots pine

Thank you for your enquiry and for taking an interest in tree health. I have added your enquiry to our plant health database here at Forest Research, Reference: 2024|1617. The browning of pine needles could be the result of a number of abiotic or biotic factors. If there is crown dieback and a more orange needle colour observed, this could be Dothistroma Needle Blight. Symptoms of this disease on needles include bands on the needles turning red or red/brown. This colour remains even when the needle has died. The red banding is not always evident, and the needles may have an overall brown or reddish colouration instead, which can easily be confused with symptoms caused by other needle pathogens. Eventually symptomatic needles are shed, and branches can acquire a ‘lion’s tail’ appearance typical of the disease, with only a tuft of the recently infected current year’s needles remaining at the branch ends.

As there are a few needle diseases that affect pine trees, we are happy to examine some foliage samples to see if we can identify Dothistroma, or any other pathogens present, as there are a few needle diseases that affect pine trees. With these mature trees, collecting fresh foliage samples may be problematic but if you are able to send us some foliage sample material, with some green (healthy) and brown (dying) needles on the same shoot, that would enable us to try and isolate any pathogens that may be present. Three or four symptomatic shoots (approx. 20 cm – 30 cm length) should give us enough material to work with.

Please place the samples in a zip-lock bag, or similar, and place in a padded/jiffy bag for posting to:

Forest Research

THDAS

Reference Number: 2024|1617

Alice Holt lodge

Farnham

Surrey

GU10 4LH