

Beech Leaf Disease in Ohio

By Brady Holko

Background:

Beech leaf disease (BLD) is contributing to significant decline of beech trees (*Fagus* spp.) in the northeastern United States and Canada. Since its discovery in Lake County, OH, in 2012, BLD has spread rapidly east as well as into Canada.

This disease is strongly associated with a species of foliar nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii* (LCM).

Hosts:

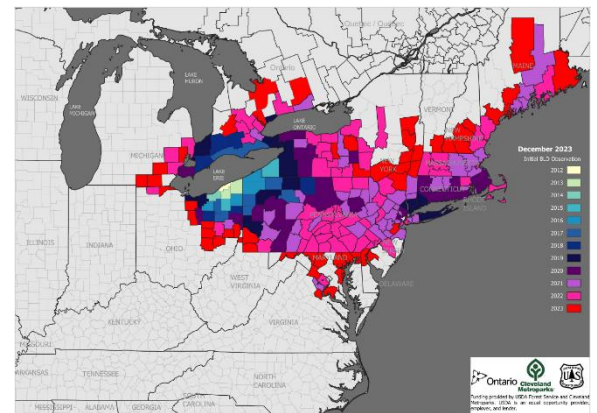
American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Oriental beech (*F. orientalis*), Chinese beech (*F. engleriana*), and European beech (*F. sylvatica*) including its ornamental cultivars.

Biology and Symptoms:

Beech leaf disease first presents itself as banding between the veins of the leaves and progresses to canopy decline that begins in the lower canopy and progresses upwards. Interveinal banding is often the most characteristic symptom of BLD. Interveinal banding starts with only a few bands per leaf and eventually the entire leaf thickens and distorts. The number of bands on a leaf does not increase over the course of the growing season.

Management:

There are several products that have proven to be effective at controlling the LCM nematode that are labeled for use in Ohio. For more information and a list of products, see this [article](#). The label is the law.



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