

# Forest Pest Alert

## Beech Bark Disease

*(Cryptococcus fagisuga + Neonectria spp.)*



Beech trees weakened by BBD often “snap”



Scale-infested beech

Photos: Michigan DNR Forest Health Program photo archive

- Beech bark disease (BBD) is caused by a sap-feeding scale insect and a fungus.
- The scales are covered with white “wool,” turning infested portions of the tree white.
- The fungus kills the wood, blocking the flow of sap. Affected trees decline in health and eventually die.
- There are 32 million American beech trees in Michigan. About 2.5 million beech have been killed by BBD to date.
- Don’t move beech firewood or logs from infested areas to uninfested areas.
- If you see a tree suspected to be infested with beech bark disease, report it to the following:

[DNR-FRD-Forest-Health@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-FRD-Forest-Health@michigan.gov)

[www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)



### Learn More:

[www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/beechnbark/fidl-beech.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/beechnbark/fidl-beech.htm) and  
[www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/Health/GypsyMoth/BeechBark.pdf](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/Health/GypsyMoth/BeechBark.pdf)



**Don't Move Firewood!**