

# Phytophthora root rot plant list



RHS Gardening Advice

May 2024

## Trees, shrubs and other plants showing susceptibility or some degree of resistance to Phytophthora root rot

Deciding what to plant in a garden after discovering Phytophthora root rot is a challenge for gardeners. Use our lists below to avoid very susceptible plants, and choose more resistant ones. This should help reduce further losses, letting you continue to enjoy a garden full of height and structure that woody plants bring as well as avoiding susceptible non-woody plants that might harbour the disease.

We have compiled a list of Phytophthora root rot records from the RHS Gardening Advice database, using the number of cases recorded since 1996, adjusted by the popularity of the plant in UK gardens. This provides a frequency of occurrence of Phytophthora root rot on each genus.

### How to use this list as a planting guide:

Separate tables are presented, for decisions on planting hedges, trees, shrubs, climbers or non-woody plants. In each, there are three categories of plants:

- *Frequently affected:* these plants are clearly susceptible to Phytophthora root rot and should be avoided, where possible, in situations where the disease is known to have been present.
- *Sometimes affected:* these plants are less often affected than those in the previous category, but it may be worth avoiding them where Phytophthora root rot has been present.
- *Rarely affected:* These plants are likely to have some degree of resistance to Phytophthora root rot. On this basis, we recommend them in situations where Phytophthora root rot has been found.

If a plant you are considering is not listed below, it is because we have insufficient data on it to determine its degree of susceptibility to Phytophthora root rot. Some information on these is included below the main lists.



### Hedges:

#### The most frequently attacked plants (\*\* = top host)

<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Griselinia</i>	<i>Ribes</i> (currant)
<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Hebe</i>	<i>Rosa</i>
<i>Aucuba</i> **	<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	<i>Rosmarinus</i> ** (rosemary)
<i>Buxus</i> (box)	<i>Lavandula</i> (lavender)	<i>Syringa</i> (lilac)
<i>Chaenomeles</i> (Japanese quince)	<i>Ligustrum</i> (privet)	<i>Taxus</i> ** (yew)
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (false cypress)	<i>Olearia</i>	<i>Thuja</i>
<i>Choisya</i> (Mexican orange)	<i>Osmanthus</i>	<i>Viburnum</i> **
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	<i>Photinia</i>	<i>x Cuprocyparis</i> (leyland cypress)
<i>Elaeagnus</i>	<i>Pyracantha</i>	
<i>Fagus</i> (beech)	<i>Rhododendron</i> **	

#### Sometimes affected

<i>Berberis</i> (barberry)	<i>Cupressus</i> (cypress)	<i>Euonymus</i>
<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Escallonia</i>	<i>Salix</i> (willow)

Online: [www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice](http://www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice) Tel: 01483 479700 (Mon-Fri, 10am – 1pm) | Follow us on  

Write to: RHS Gardening Advice, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

## Hedges (continued)

### Rarely affected

<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Pittosporum</i>	<i>Tamarix</i>
<i>Fuchsia</i>	<i>Potentilla</i>	<i>Weigela</i>
<i>Hypericum</i>	<i>Spiraea</i>	
<i>Lonicera</i> (honeysuckle)	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (snowberry)	

## Trees:

### The most frequently attacked plants (\*\* = top host)



<i>Abies</i> (fir)	<i>Cornus</i> (dogwood)	<i>Prunus</i>
<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Cotoneaster</i>	<i>Robinia</i> (false acacia)
<i>Aesculus</i> (horse chestnut)	<i>Fagus</i> (beech)	<i>Sambucus</i> (elder)
<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	<i>Sorbus</i> (rowan)
<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>Juniperus**</i> (juniper)	<i>Syringa</i> (lilac)
<i>Araucaria</i> (monkey puzzle)	<i>Laburnum</i>	<i>Taxus**</i> (yew)
<i>Arbutus</i> (strawberry tree)	<i>Ligustrum</i> (privet)	<i>Thuja</i>
<i>Castanea</i> (sweet chestnut)	<i>Malus</i> (apple)	<i>Tilia</i> (lime)
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Osmanthus</i>	<i>x Cuprocyparis</i> (leyland cypress)
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (false cypress)	<i>Photinia</i>	

### Sometimes affected

<i>Betula</i> (birch)	<i>Eucryphia</i>	<i>Paulownia</i>
<i>Cedrus</i>	<i>Euonymus</i>	<i>Pinus</i>
<i>Cercis</i> (Judas tree)	<i>Juglans</i> (walnut)	<i>Populus</i> (poplar)
<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Laurus</i> (bay laurel)	<i>Quercus</i> (oak)
<i>Cupressus</i> (cypress)	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Salix</i> (willow)
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>Morus</i> (mulberry)	

### Rarely affected

<i>Acacia</i> (mimosa)	<i>Davidia</i> (handkerchief tree)	<i>Metasequoia</i>
<i>Ailanthus</i> (tree of heaven)	<i>Exochorda</i>	<i>Olea</i> (olive)
<i>Albizia</i> (silk tree)	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Parrotia</i>
<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Fraxinus</i> (ash)	<i>Picea</i> (spruce)
<i>Catalpa</i> (Indian bean tree)	<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>Platanus</i> (plane)
<i>Cercidiphyllum</i>	<i>Gleditsia</i> (honey locust)	<i>Pyrus</i>
<i>Clerodendrum</i>	<i>Hoheria</i>	<i>Sequoia</i>
<i>Cordyline</i>	<i>Koelreuteria</i>	<i>Sophora</i>
<i>Corylus</i> (hazel)	<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	<i>Ulmus</i> (elm)
<i>Cryptomeria</i>	<i>Liquidamber</i>	
<i>Cydonia</i> (quince)	<i>Liriodendron</i> (tulip tree)	

Online: [www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice](http://www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice) Tel: 01483 479700 (Mon-Fri, 10am – 1pm) | Follow us on    
Write to: RHS Gardening Advice, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

The mention of any product, supplier or service does not constitute an endorsement by the Society.  
©RHS – not to be copied or reproduced without prior permission. RHS Registered Charity No.222879/SC038262

## Shrubs:

### The most frequently attacked plants (\*\* = top host)


<i>Abutilon</i>	<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Prunus</i>
<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Elaeagnus</i>	<i>Pyracantha</i>
<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Erica</i> (heather)	<i>Rhamnus</i> (buckthorn)
<i>Arbutus</i> (strawberry tree)	<i>Fremontodendron</i> **	<i>Rhododendron</i> **
<i>Aucuba</i> **	<i>Garrya</i>	<i>Ribes</i> (currant)
<i>Buxus</i> (box)	<i>Griselinia</i>	<i>Rosa</i>
<i>Calluna</i> (heather)	<i>Hamamelis</i> (witch hazel)	<i>Rosmarinus</i> ** (rosemary)
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Hebe</i>	<i>Rubus</i> **
<i>Chaenomeles</i> (Japanese quince)	<i>Ilex</i> ( <i>Holly</i> )	<i>Sambucus</i> (elder)
<i>Choisya</i> (Mexican orange)	<i>Juniperus</i> ** (juniper)	<i>Sarcococca</i> **
<i>Cistus</i>	<i>Lavandula</i> (lavender)	<i>Skimmia</i>
<i>Convolvulus</i>	<i>Ligustrum</i> (privet)	<i>Solanum</i>
<i>Cornus</i> (dogwood)	<i>Olearia</i>	<i>Sorbus</i> (rowan)
<i>Cotinus</i>	<i>Osmanthus</i>	<i>Syringa</i> (lilac)
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Viburnum</i> **

### Sometimes affected

<i>Berberis</i> (barberry)	<i>Hibiscus</i>	<i>Pieris</i>
<i>Buddleja</i>	<i>Hydrangea</i>	<i>Pinus</i>
<i>Ceratostigma</i> (plumbago)	<i>Laurus</i> (bay laurel)	<i>Salix</i> (willow)
<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Lavatera</i> (mallow)	<i>Salvia</i>
<i>Escallonia</i>	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Senecio</i>
<i>Eucryphia</i>	<i>Morus</i> (mulberry)	<i>Vaccinium</i>
<i>Euonymus</i>	<i>Philadelphus</i>	

### Rarely affected

<i>Abelia</i>	<i>Eriobotrya</i>	<i>Olea</i> (olive)
<i>Akebia</i>	<i>Exochorda</i>	<i>Paeonia</i>
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>Fatsia</i>	<i>Perovskia</i>
<i>Bambusa</i> (bamboo)	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Phlomis</i> (Jerusalem sage)
<i>Callicarpa</i>	<i>Forsythia</i>	<i>Phormium</i> (NZ flax)
<i>Callistemon</i> (bottle brush)	<i>Fuchsia</i>	<i>Phygelius</i>
<i>Camellia</i>	<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>Physocarpus</i>
<i>Carpenteria</i> (tree anemone)	<i>Hedera</i>	<i>Pittosporum</i>
<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Hypericum</i>	<i>Potentilla</i>
<i>Caryopteris</i>	<i>Jasminum</i>	<i>Protea</i>
<i>Chamaerops</i> (fan palm)	<i>Kerria</i>	<i>Punica</i> (pomegranate)
<i>Chimonanthus</i> (wintersweet)	<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>Rhus</i> (sumac)
<i>Clerodendrum</i>	<i>Leycesteria</i>	<i>Ricinus</i>
<i>Cordylina</i>	<i>Lonicera</i> (honeysuckle)	<i>Sophora</i>
<i>Coronilla</i>	<i>Mahonia</i>	<i>Spiraea</i>
<i>Corylus</i> (hazel)	<i>Melianthus</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (snowberry)
<i>Cytisus</i> (broom)	<i>Myrtus</i> (myrtle)	<i>Tamarix</i>
<i>Deutzia</i>	<i>Nandina</i>	<i>Weigela</i>
<i>Embothrium</i>	<i>Nerium</i> (oleander)	

Online: [www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice](http://www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice) Tel: 01483 479700 (Mon-Fri, 10am – 1pm) | Follow us on  

Write to: RHS Gardening Advice, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

The mention of any product, supplier or service does not constitute an endorsement by the Society.

©RHS – not to be copied or reproduced without prior permission. RHS Registered Charity No.222879/SC038262

## Climbers

### Frequently affected

*Rosa*

### Sometimes affected

*Actinidia* (kiwifruit)

*Clematis*

*Wisteria*

### Rarely affected

*Campsis* trumpet vine)

*Passiflora* (passion flower)

*Vitis* (grapevine)

*Parthenocissus* (Virginia creeper)

*Trachelospermum* (star jasmine)

## Insufficient information:

Phytophthora root rot has been recorded in UK gardens on these trees and shrubs, but we have insufficient data to determine their degree of susceptibility. However, their use should be treated with caution in gardens where Phytophthora root rot has been known to occur.

### Insufficient information

*Aralia*

*Hippophae*

*Pseudotsuga*

*Brachyglottis*

*Kalmia*

*Psidium*

*Desfontainia*

*Larix* (larch)

*Ruta*

*Enkianthus*

*Leucothoe*

*Santolina*

*Fothergilla*

*Mespilus* (medlar)

*Senna*

*Gaultheria*

*Nothofagus*

*Taxodium*

*Halesia*



*Pachysandra*

*Vitex*

*Halimium*

*Prostanthera*

If a woody plant you are considering is not listed in this document, it is because we have not found Phytophthora root rot on it, but it is not sufficiently common in UK gardens to determine its degree of susceptibility.

Online: [www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice](http://www.rhs.org.uk/myadvice) Tel: 01483 479700 (Mon-Fri, 10am – 1pm) | Follow us on    
Write to: RHS Gardening Advice, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

The mention of any product, supplier or service does not constitute an endorsement by the Society.  
©RHS – not to be copied or reproduced without prior permission. RHS Registered Charity No.222879/SC038262