

# PLANT HEALTH CARE REPORT



## London Plane

London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) is a hybrid sycamore resulting from crosses of American sycamore and Oriental planetree. London plane is an important landscape tree because of its resistance to disease and ability to grow rapidly in urban soils. The EXCLAMATION!™ London plane is a particularly hardy introduction that is resistant to anthracnose and frost-cracking. Mature trees typically reach 70–100 feet in height with crowns that are 65–80 feet wide.

London plane is easily transplanted although care should be taken to ensure that it is not planted too deeply. It prefers deep, rich, moist soils that are well drained. London plane is able to withstand most soil conditions, including high pH and compaction. These tolerances have contributed to London plane being widely planted in urban settings.

The major foliage disease of London plane is anthracnose but several cultivars have resistance. Powdery mildew disease also infects foliage and may noticeably damage



Ovation™ London plane has a pyramidal form

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tree appearance in late summer. Several cankers infect this tree, and canker stain is a major problem in many areas. Bacterial leaf scorch, a vascular disease present in certain areas, causes the trees to slowly decline and die.

The most common insect pest on London plane is sycamore lacebug which has up to five generations per year. On the West Coast, sycamore scale is a widespread pest. American plum borer feed under the bark, often entering near wounds.

London plane should be fertilized on a regular basis. They are often planted in areas with poor soil or limited rooting space, restricting availability of nutrients. Irrigation and mulching can reduce stress during dry periods.

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## Monitoring and Treatment Considerations for London Plane

### Mid to late winter

Apply dormant treatment to suppress overwintering insects. Monitor for borers and scales; treat as needed. Remove dead, dying, diseased, and broken branches.

### Early spring

Apply fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose if needed. Monitor for lacebug; treat as needed. Sample soil for nutrient and pH levels. Fertilize, adjust pH, and amend soil according to soil analysis.

### Mid-spring

Apply fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose if needed. Monitor for lacebug; treat as needed. Apply bark treatment to prevent American plum borer.

### Late spring

Apply fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose if needed. Monitor for scales, lacebug, and mites; treat as needed.

### Early summer

Monitor for scales, lacebug, and mites; treat as needed. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress. Inspect mulch levels and adjust as needed.

### Mid to late summer

Apply fungicide treatment to suppress powdery mildew if needed. Monitor for scales, lacebug, and mites; treat as needed.

### Fall

Monitor for scales, lacebug, and mites; treat as needed. Expose and inspect root collar for problems. Add mulch as necessary. Fertilize, adjust pH, and amend soil according to soil analysis.

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