

Management of this disease is by avoiding off-site planting or selection and breeding of disease tolerant trees.



Eucalyptus attacked by cankers

Leaf spots

Mycosphaerella leaf disease is mainly found on seedlings and older leaves of trees. The symptoms of the disease are mainly blackish appearance on the under side of leaves and purplish or brown spots on the upper side. Management of this disease is by use of fungicides or planting disease tolerant material.



Leaf spots on *E. grandis*

Powdery mildews

Powdery mildews is a nursery disease that reduce growth and sometimes kills seedlings. The symptoms are whitish coating and curling of young leaves. Management of this disease is by regular spraying with fungicides.



Mildew on Eucalyptus seedlings

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Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)

**Pests and diseases of
Eucalyptus and their management**

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Introduction

Eucalypts were first introduced in Kenya in early 1902 and are widely grown in the central highlands in Kiambu, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Meru. They have also been introduced to drier parts of the region such as in Kieni and Ruiru. Eucalyptus play a key role in provision of fuelwood, timber, transmission poles, building materials and fencing posts. Tree growers should be aware of pests and diseases that could reduce productivity of Eucalypts. The major pests and diseases that are found within the central highlands eco-region are:

Insect pests

Blue gum chalcid

Blue gum chalcid (BGC) (*Leptocybe invasa*) is a small gall-forming wasp. It was first recorded in Kenya in year 2002. BGC attacks mostly seedlings and field saplings causing damage by forming massive typical bump-shaped galls on seedlings and sapling canopy, specifically on the leaf midribs, petioles and stems of new growths. Systemic pesticides that have been tested against this pest include Confidor and Methomex. They are effective on nursery seedlings. Another management option includes possible release of biological control agent *Selitricoides neseri*.



Blue gum chalcid



tree attacked by BGC

Eucalyptus snout beetle

Eucalyptus snout beetle (*Gonipterus scutellatus*) attacks eucalyptus by the adult feeding on the edge of the leaf while the larvae feeds on the entire epidermis of the leaf. In 1945 a biological control agent *Anaphes nitens* was introduced into Kenya from South Africa to control the pest. However the pest can still be found attacking trees in Kenya. Some of the places affected by the pest include Kieni, Kinangop and Kiserian.



Adult snout beetle



Damage by beetle

Winter bronzing bug

Winter bronzing bug (*Thaumastocoris peregrines*) is a sap-sucking insect that causes the tree foliage to turn reddish-brown. As infestation increases, foliage becomes yellow-brown (winter bronzing). There is no control for the pest currently but progress is being made to release a biological control agent.



Adult winter bronze bug



Damage on tree

Termites

Termites are associated with damage to eucalyptus in the field in Kenya. Some termite species are able to kill healthy trees and, therefore cause greater losses. Damage includes attacking the bole, ring barking and death of seedlings. A number of chemicals can be used to protect trees against attack by termites such as Gladiator, Confidor, Imaxi among others.



Termite attack on Eucalyptus

Diseases

Cankers

Botryosphaeria canker is the most common disease of Eucalyptus in Kenya mainly associated with stress or offsite planting. The disease causes formation of stem cankers, production of gum and stunted growth. In some cases sections of infected stems show a brown ring in the sapwood. The most affected species are *E. grandis* and *E. camaldulensis*.