

## **Bronze Leaf Disease – watch for it!**

Bronze leaf disease (BLD) is a fungal disease that's new to Calgary and Alberta. It spreads through spore dispersal in early spring. BLD was discovered recently here in Calgary. We need your help with identifying the most affected areas. Trees impacted by BLD include various poplars and hybrid species including trembling aspen, Swedish columnar aspen and tower poplar.

BLD can kill a tree within 3 – 5 years of initial infection. There are no known chemical controls, so it's important to control the spread.

### **Here's what to look for:**

- Leaves become dark reddish-brown, chocolate brown or bronze and all the leaves on a shoot show signs of the disease.
- Leaf veins and their petioles remain green while the rest of the leaf is brown.
- Once the disease is spread, browning may be observed under the bark of diseased branches.
- New leaves on infected branches can appear underdeveloped in subsequent years.
- Diseased leaves often first show up in the lower crown but may be scattered throughout the crown of the tree or isolated to a few branches.
- Infected leaves remain on the tree through winter.

Infected branches must be disposed of in a sanitary landfill or buried. They cannot be composted or saved for firewood.

The City will be monitoring, diagnosing and treating City-owned trees, however homeowners of trees on private property must contact a local tree care professional for a diagnosis and treatment options.