



PHYTOPHTHORA Information Sheet

WHAT IS IT?

Phytophthora (also called Cinnamon fungus) is a fungal disease that causes damage to plants in areas we walk through. The disease is also common to our gardens. It is spread by carrying infected soil from one place to another, typically on boots and shoes.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The most obvious signs are:

- Autumn colors in plants (not during Autumn!)
- Collapsed grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp)
- Banksia leaves going yellow
- Eucalypts slowly dying back

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Vicwalk recommends that walkers carry a hygiene kit containing:

- A hard brush to clean footwear
- A bottle of disinfectant – either methylated spirits (70% methylated spirits and 30% water) or household bleach (dilute 1 part of bleach with 4 parts of water)
- A small spray bottle to spray the disinfectant onto footwear.

As the disease is spread by carrying soil from one place to another, it is recommended footwear and other equipment (e.g. walking poles, bottoms of packs) be cleaned at home after walking in an affected area.

By keeping to designated roads and walking trails, parking in designated car parks, and complying with track access restrictions in force within infected areas

WHAT AREAS ARE INFECTED

Parks Victoria's advice is that the fungus is present in the following areas:

Coastal forests of South and East Gippsland	Kinglake
Grampians	Point Nepean
Lower Glenelg	Wilsons Promontory
Brisbane Ranges	Croajingalong National Park
Great Otway	Lake Tyers
Anglesea Heathland	Lerderderg State Park