

Photographic Study Report

Monterey Pine at 41 St Catherines Road, Hayling Island





Symptoms:

- Yellowing of needles then browning of needles and then needle death and needle drop
- Rapid spread over a period of three to four weeks starting in lower crown – moving up to mid-crown and then into upper sections of tree.
- Samples cut from the tree show no signs of ingress/egress holes of moth caterpillars or beetles.
- Buds appear healthy at the tips and there is no staining of the internal tissues.

Cause:

- As yet unknown

Theories:

- Possibility of soil contamination picked up by the roots and killing needles = no risk to other neighbouring trees.
- Possibility of fungal infection of *Ramichloridium pini* - *Shoot Dieback* accelerated by a 'drought' stressed tree and a population explosion of sap sucking aphids = high risk to other neighbouring trees.

Prognosis:

- At the current rate of spread the tree will be completely defoliated within another 10 to 15 days.
- Even if the buds are alive there is no guarantee that they will stay so and re-flush and even then the minimal 'lion tail' growth will not leave a viable and sustainable tree in amenity landscape terms.
- Most probable scenario is that this tree will die.

Concerns:

- **IF** it is fungal infection of *Ramichloridium pini* - *Shoot Dieback* accelerated by a 'drought' stressed tree and a population explosion of sap sucking aphids then there is a very real risk that this could spread to other highly valued Pines in the vicinity.