

Honey fungus plant list

RHS Gardening Advice

November 2024



Trees, shrubs and other woody plants showing susceptibility or some degree of resistance to honey fungus

Deciding what to plant in a garden after discovering honey fungus is a challenge for gardeners. Use our lists below to avoid very susceptible trees and shrubs, and choose more resistant ones. This should help reduce further losses, letting you continue to enjoy a garden full of height and structure that woody plants bring.

We have compiled a list of honey fungus records from the RHS Gardening Advice database, using the number of cases recorded since 1996, adjusted by the popularity of the plant in UK gardens. This provides a frequency of occurrence of honey fungus on each genus.

How to use this list as a planting guide:

Three separate tables are presented, for decisions on planting hedges, trees or shrubs. In each, there are three categories of plants:

- *Frequently affected*: these plants are clearly susceptible to honey fungus and should be avoided, where possible, in situations where honey fungus is known to be present.
- *Sometimes affected*: these plants are less often affected than those in the previous category, but it may be worth avoiding them where honey fungus is known to be present.
- *Rarely affected*: These plants are likely to have some degree of resistance to honey fungus. On this basis, we recommend them in situations where honey fungus has been found.

If a woody plant you are considering is not listed below, it is because we have insufficient data on it to determine its degree of susceptibility to honey fungus. Some information on these is included below the main lists.


Hedges:

The most frequently attacked plants (** = top host)

<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Elaeagnus</i>	<i>Spiraea</i>
<i>Aucuba</i>	<i>Escallonia</i>	<i>Syringa</i> ** (lilac)
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (false cypress)	<i>Ligustrum</i> ** (privet)	<i>Thuja</i> **
<i>Choisya</i> (mexican orange)	<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Viburnum</i> **
<i>Cotoneaster</i> **	<i>Pyracantha</i>	<i>Weigela</i> **
<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Rhododendron</i>	<i>x Cuprocyparis</i> ** (leyland cypress)
<i>Cupressus</i> (cypress)	<i>Salix</i> ** (willow)	

Sometimes affected

<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Fagus</i> (beech)	<i>Potentilla</i>
<i>Berberis</i> (barberry)	<i>Hebe</i>	<i>Ribes</i> (currant)
<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	<i>Rosa</i>
<i>Euonymus</i>	<i>Osmanthus</i>	

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Hedges (continued):

Rarely affected

<i>Buxus</i> (box)	<i>Lavandula</i> (lavender)	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (snowberry)
<i>Chaenomeles</i> (jap. quince)	<i>Lonicera</i> (honeysuckle)	<i>Tamarix</i>
<i>Fuschia</i>	<i>Olearia</i>	<i>Taxus</i> (yew)
<i>Griselinia</i>	<i>Pittosporum</i>	
<i>Hypericum</i>	<i>Rosmarinus</i> (rosemary)	

Trees:

The most frequently attacked plants (** = top host)



<i>Abies</i> (fir)	<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Metasequoia</i> **
<i>Aesculus</i> (horse chestnut)	<i>Cupressus</i> (cypress)	<i>Parrotia</i>
<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Davidia</i> (handkerchief tree)	<i>Photinia</i>
<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>Eucryphia</i>	<i>Pterocarya</i>
<i>Betula</i> (birch)	<i>Fraxinus</i> (ash)	<i>Quercus</i> (oak)
<i>Castanea</i> (sweet chestnut)	<i>Gleditsia</i> (honey locust)	<i>Salix</i> ** (willow)
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Juglans</i> ** (walnut)	<i>Sequoia</i>
<i>Cedrus</i> **	<i>Koelreuteria</i>	<i>Sorbus</i> ** (rowan)
<i>Cercidiphyllum</i> **	<i>Laburnum</i> **	<i>Syringa</i> ** (lilac)
<i>Cercis</i> (judas tree)	<i>Ligustrum</i> ** (privet)	<i>Thuja</i> **
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (false cypress)	<i>Liquidamber</i> **	<i>x Cuprocyparis</i> ** (leyland cypress)
<i>Cotoneaster</i> **	<i>Liriodendron</i> (tulip tree)	

Sometimes affected

<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Hoheria</i>	<i>Pinus</i>
<i>Araucaria</i> (monkey puzzle)	<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	<i>Platanus</i> (plane)
<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Juniperus</i> (juniper)	<i>Populus</i> (poplar)
<i>Cornus</i> (dogwood)	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Prunus</i>
<i>Corylus</i> (hazel)	<i>Malus</i> (apple)	<i>Robinia</i> (false acacia)
<i>Cydonia</i> (quince)	<i>Osmanthus</i>	<i>Sambucus</i> (elder)
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>Paulownia</i>	<i>Tilia</i> (lime)
<i>Euonymus</i>	<i>Picea</i> (spruce)	<i>Ulmus</i> (elm)
<i>Fagus</i> (beech)		

Rarely affected

<i>Acacia</i> (mimosa)	<i>Cryptomeria</i>	<i>Laurus</i> (bay laurel)
<i>Albizia</i> (silk tree)	<i>Diospyros</i>	<i>Morus</i> (mulberry)
<i>Arbutus</i> (strawberry tree)	<i>Erythrina</i>	<i>Olea</i> (olive)
<i>Caesalpinia</i>	<i>Exochorda</i>	<i>Pyrus</i>
<i>Catalpa</i> (indian bean tree)	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Sophora</i>
<i>Clerodendrum</i>	<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>Taxus</i> (yew)
<i>Cordyline</i>	<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	<i>Zelkova</i>

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Shrubs:

The most frequently attacked plants (** = top host)



<i>Alnus</i> (alder)	<i>Elaeagnus</i>	<i>Physocarpus</i>
<i>Aucuba</i>	<i>Escallonia</i>	<i>Pyracantha</i>
<i>Buddleja</i>	<i>Eucryphia</i>	<i>Rhododendron</i>
<i>Caryopteris</i>	<i>Fatsia</i>	<i>Salix</i> ** (willow)
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>Forsythia</i> **	<i>Skimmia</i>
<i>Choisya</i> (mexican orange)	<i>Fremontodendron</i>	<i>Sorbus</i> ** (rowan)
<i>Cistus</i>	<i>Hamamelis</i> (witch hazel)	<i>Spiraea</i>
<i>Cotoneaster</i> **	<i>Ligustrum</i> ** (privet)	<i>Syringa</i> ** (lilac)
<i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn)	<i>Mahonia</i>	<i>Viburnum</i> **
<i>Cytisus</i> (broom)	<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Weigela</i> **

Sometimes affected

<i>Acer</i> (maple, sycamore)	<i>Hebe</i>	<i>Potentilla</i>
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	<i>Prunus</i>
<i>Berberis</i> (barberry)	<i>Juniperus</i> (juniper)	<i>Rhus</i> (sumac)
<i>Carpinus</i> (hornbeam)	<i>Lavatera</i> (mallow)	<i>Ribes</i> (currant)
<i>Cornus</i> (dogwood)	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Rosa</i>
<i>Corylus</i> (hazel)	<i>Osmanthus</i>	<i>Sambucus</i> (elder)
<i>Deutzia</i>	<i>Paeonia</i>	<i>Senecio</i>
<i>Embothrium</i>	<i>Perovskia</i>	
<i>Euonymus</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	

Rarely affected

<i>Abelia</i>	<i>Erica</i> (heather)	<i>Nerium</i> (oleander)
<i>Abutilon</i>	<i>Eriobotrya</i>	<i>Olea</i> (olive)
<i>Akebia</i>	<i>Exochorda</i>	<i>Olearia</i>
<i>Arbutus</i> (strawberry tree)	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Philadelphus</i>
<i>Bambusa</i> (bamboo)	<i>Fuchsia</i>	<i>Phlomis</i> (jerusalem sage)
<i>Buxus</i> (box)	<i>Garrya</i>	<i>Phormium</i> (NZ flax)
<i>Caesalpinia</i>	<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>Phygelius</i>
<i>Callicarpa</i>	<i>Griselinia</i>	<i>Pieris</i>
<i>Callistemon</i> (bottle brush)	<i>Hedera</i>	<i>Pittosporum</i>
<i>Calluna</i> (heather)	<i>Hibiscus</i>	<i>Protea</i>
<i>Calycanthus</i>	<i>Hydrangea</i>	<i>Punica</i> (pomegranate)
<i>Camellia</i>	<i>Hypericum</i>	<i>Rhamnus</i> (buckthorn)
<i>Carpenteria</i> (tree anemone)	<i>Jasminum</i>	<i>Ricinus</i>
<i>Ceratostigma</i> (plumbago)	<i>Kerria</i>	<i>Rosmarinus</i> (rosemary)
<i>Chaenomeles</i> (jap. quince)	<i>Laurus</i> (bay laurel)	<i>Rubus</i>
<i>Chamaerops</i> (fan palm)	<i>Lavandula</i> (lavender)	<i>Salvia</i>
<i>Chimonanthus</i> (wintersweet)	<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>Sarcococca</i>
<i>Clerodendrum</i>	<i>Leycesteria</i>	<i>Solanum</i>
<i>Convolvulus</i>	<i>Lonicera</i> (honeysuckle)	<i>Sophora</i>
<i>Cordyline</i>	<i>Melianthus</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (snowberry)
<i>Coronilla</i>	<i>Morus</i> (mulberry)	<i>Tamarix</i>
<i>Cotinus</i>	<i>Myrtus</i> (myrtle)	<i>Vaccinium</i>
<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Nandina</i>	

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Climbers:

Frequently affected

Campsis Parthenocissus

Sometimes affected

Actinidia Trachelospermum Rosa
Vitis

Rarely affected

Akebia Hedera Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
Albizia Hydrangea Passiflora
Clematis Jasminium Wisteria



Insufficient information:

Honey fungus has been recorded in UK gardens on these plants, but we have insufficient data to determine their degree of susceptibility. However, their use should be treated with caution in gardens where honey fungus is known to occur.

Insufficient information

<i>Abeliophyllum</i>	<i>Hippophae</i>	<i>Prostanthera</i>
<i>Aralia</i>	<i>Indigofera</i>	<i>Ptelea</i>
<i>Argyrocystis</i>	<i>Itea</i>	<i>Rhaphiolepis</i>
<i>Azara</i>	<i>Kalmia</i>	<i>Ruscus</i>
<i>Brachyglottis</i>	<i>Kolkwitzia</i>	<i>Santolina</i>
<i>Caragana</i>	<i>Larix</i> (larch)	<i>Sciadopitys</i>
<i>Corokia</i>	<i>Leucothoe</i>	<i>Sequoiadendron</i>
<i>Corylopsis</i>	<i>Lithodora</i>	<i>Stachyurus</i>
<i>Enkianthus</i>	<i>Luma</i>	<i>Stewartia</i>
<i>Fothergilla</i>	<i>Mespilus</i> (medlar)	<i>Styrax</i>
<i>Gaultheria</i>	<i>Nothofagus</i>	<i>Taxodium</i>
<i>Genista</i>	<i>Nyssa</i>	<i>Ulex</i> (gorse)
<i>Halesia</i>	<i>Parahebe</i>	<i>Vitex</i>
<i>Helianthemum</i> (rock rose)	<i>Phillyrea</i>	<i>Wollemia</i>
<i>Helichrysum</i>	<i>Poncirus</i>	

If a woody plant you are considering is not listed in this document, it is because we have not found honey fungus on it, but it is not sufficiently common in UK gardens to determine its degree of susceptibility.

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