

Lacebark Pine Tree #122 at the National Museum of Natural History Evaluation

July 9, 2013

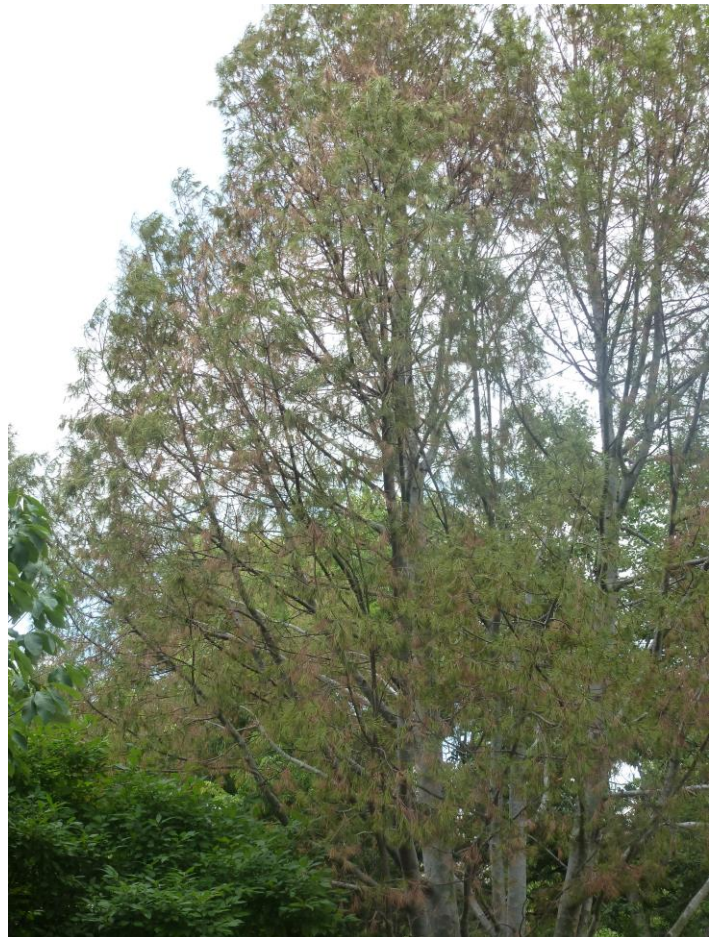
Greg Huse, Arborist, Smithsonian Gardens

At the present time, the lacebark pine tree (*Pinus bungeana*) numbered # 122 in the Smithsonian Gardens Tree Collection has several issues associated with it that may warrant its removal. This tree is located at the southeast corner of the NMNH property along the Madison Drive sidewalk at the top of the Butterfly Habitat Garden.

This tree has been declining in health over the past several months resulting in crown dieback. An investigation of the tree found a significant portion of the root collar is non-existent due to a very large girdling root growing just below the soil surface. This has led to a weakened state, resulting in browning and death of needles, and the tree succumbing to infestations of needle scale insects and needlecast disease, leaving the health and aesthetics of the tree vastly diminished. The girdling root found is too large, and is growing in such a position, as to make its removal impractical. Additionally, given the root's location, if removed, the entire tree may lose its stability in the ground. There is little to no chance that this tree can be rehabilitated. For all of these reasons, it is recommended that this tree be closely monitored, and removed as soon as it becomes too unhealthy to keep and maintain.



Girdling root is too large to remove without compromising tree stability.



Crown browning and dieback as a result of girdling roots, insects and disease.



Girdling roots and trunk compression which have led to overall tree decline.



Dying foliage due to trunk compression, insects & disease.