

Leaf scorch caused by high temperature

Hot, dry summer weather can cause leaf scorch. The leaf tissue on the edges and between the main leaf veins dies. Eventually the entire leaf may be dead except for a narrow band of live, green tissue along the veins. The tree may be affected uniformly or on only one side or on just a few branches. Plants growing near roads or in other situations with much reflected heat and light are most likely to be scorched.

Scorch can also be a symptom of insect and disease problems that interrupt the flow of water from the roots. Root diseases can reduce root efficiency so that less water reaches the leaves, which then scorch. If you can diagnose and stop the problem, you may be able to stop the scorching.

Scorching related to high temperatures may be due to lack of soil moisture or an inadequate root system. If dry soil is the cause, watering may stop the scorching. If the plant just does not have enough roots, it may scorch during very hot, windy weather even though soil moisture is adequate. Little can be done in this case.

Allowing the soil to dry excessively before watering can kill the roots. Then when the plant is watered, the reduced root system can not supply enough water to the leaves.

Construction injury can cause compacted soil and root removal or death that leads to scorching.