

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

2019 WESTERN CHAPTER ISA
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

Phytophthora - a biological bulldozer

Date/Time/Session: **TUESDAY, 4.30.2019, 2:00:00 PM, in the GENERAL session**

Presentation Length: **60 minutes**

Presented by: **Johan Östberg**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



Overview of Presentation:

Pildammsparken, in the city of Malmö, Sweden, is the city's largest and most visited park. The park mainly consists of large older beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*). In 2010 a decrease in tree vitality was noticed and infections of *Phytophthora* (*P. plurivora* and *P. cambivora*) were found. An investigation showed that 20% of the trees had bleeding cankers typical for *Phytophthora* infections, suggesting that the area is heavily infected. *Phytophthora* pathogens mainly infect fine roots and the infection is primarily reflected in the trees by sparse crowns with small light green leaves and dead branches. Due to the disturbed root functions the vitality of the infected trees is reduced and the weakened trees are easily infected by secondary damaging agents, such as rot fungi that often kill the tree.

This presentation will focus on how this infestation was found, how the city managed to collaborate with researchers around Europe to make a correct diagnosis and how the management of the park is being conducted to both treat the trees and ensure that visitors can enjoy the park even though the trees are declining and are being infected by different types of root destroying fungi.

Presenter Bio:

Johan Östberg is an associate professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture, at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp, where he's been working since 2007.

Apart from his academic career he is also an ISA Certified Arborist and active as a consultant, where he is running a consultant networking comprising of consultants from a different profession, working together to create management plans for larger tree populations in Sweden.