



# Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

## Beech Tree Diseases

Look around during your walk and you will probably see a lot of beech trees. Beech trees are a staple of many hardwood forests, and a U.S. Forest Survey found that they make up about 10% of all trees in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, they are plagued by disease. Keep reading to learn more about these diseases, and be on the lookout for signs of disease.

### Beech Leaf Disease



First documented in Ohio in 2012, beech bark leaf disease is caused by a nematode worm that infects the buds. The infected buds will not produce leaves, leading to eventual branch dieback and death of the tree.

### Beech Bark Disease



Infected trees have rough, scaly bark that differs from the beech's characteristic smooth bark. The disease is caused by fungal pathogens. This disease also causes dieback and eventual tree death.

