Note on *Agonis flexuosa* foliage death at Yalgorup National Park June 2006



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Department of Environment and Conservation July 2006

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Time of appearance of symptoms

Symptoms of foliage death were first noticed on the Old Coast Road in Yalgorup National Park on the morning of Monday 25th June on a southbound journey but not on afternoon of Friday 22nd June on a northbound journey. Symptoms were very pronounced when observed, but it is not clear whether symptoms were present on the Friday and were missed. Some time would have needed to elapse between foliage death and foliage dehydration, however the characteristic odour and dry greenness of the foliage indicated that the foliage death was very recent.

Symptoms

Symptoms first observed 25th June (passing at 110 kmh): Pale green and dry appearance to *Agonis flexuosa* foliage, aromatic smell of dead foliage. Symptoms not confined to road verges. Symptoms were photographed 2nd July and the extent of affected trees along Old Coast Rd noted. By this time the dead foliage was starting to turn light brown (See plates 1, 2 and 3). In some instances new shoots were present on branches with affected mature leaves, indicating that the buds producing these shoots had not been affected. Affected paddock trees were noted up to about 2 km north of the Preston Beach turnoff and isolated roadside instances up to about 5 km south of Ludlow Rd turnoff from Old Coast Road. Most severe symptoms were noted in Yalgorup National Park in an area affected by wildfire about a ?decade previously. Tuart did not appear to be affected.

Possible cause of symptoms

Symptoms were first seen about a week after record low temperature for Perth of -0.7 °C on 17 June 2006. Frosts and near-frost conditions were extensive on the coastal plain on that date (Bureau of Meteorology June weather observations for Bunbury, Busselton and Perth appended). No damage to *A. flexuosa* foliage was observed along the Old Coast Road between 5 km south of Ludlow Rd and Raymond Road. Foliage death of *A. flexuosa* at Yalgorup is possibly attributable to frost conditions, although spatial variability in frost severity and/or susceptibility of *A. flexuosa* to frost need to be invoked to account for the localized foliage death. *A. flexuosa* is known to be frost intolerant and nurseries generally do not recommend this species for areas with a risk of frost

(e.g. http://www.desert-tropicals.com/Plants/Myrtaceae/Agonis_flexuosa.html). Elsewhere, foliage damage to *A. flexuosa* apparently attributable to frost has been seen in the vicinity of Bridgetown and Manjimup. Trees along Middlesex Road and Smith's Brook near Manjimup were affected in 2005 and 2006. Other species including *Trymalium florabundum* have also been affected (Adrian Wayne pers. com. 20/7/2006). Another factor affecting plant physiological status might be unusually dry early winter conditions in 2006.



Plate 1. View west along Preston Beach Road from intersection with Old Coast Road. 2nd July 2006. Note the scorched appearance to *Agonis flexuosa* and apparent absence of damage to Tuart foliage. Emergent dead Tuart stems are from trees killed by a wildfire some years previously. Affected trees were also present in the paddock adjacent to the right.



Plate 2. View south along northbound lanes of Old Coast Road from Preston Beach turnoff. 2nd July 2006. Note that only *A. flexuosa* are affected. Branch dieback in Tuart is due to wildfire some years previous and to some extent to Tuart crown decline.



Plate 3. Affected *A. flexuosa* foliage contrasted against healthy foliage. Note that death of leaves has been from tip to pedicel with indications that the base of leaves and axillary buds are still alive.

Appendix 1. Bureau of Meteorology observation summaries and map.

Perth, Western Australia June 2006 Daily Weather Observations

Source: Bureau of Meteorology. A combination of observations from Mount Lawley and Perth Airport.

		Temps		Dain	Evan	Sun	Max wind gust					3 pm									
Date	Day	Min	Max	Kain	Evap	Sun	Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP
		°C	°C	mm	mm	hours		km/h	local	°C	%	8 th		km/h	hPa	°C	%	8 th		km/h	hPa
1	Th	4.5	19.0	0	1.6	9.0	NE	28	13:11	11.4	82	7	ESE	6	1027.7	18.1	46	3	Е	9	1024.0
2	Fr	4.3	19.6	0	0.4	9.2	ENE	28	12:28	12.3	79	1	ENE	9	1026.3	19.4	44	1	ENE	11	1023.0
3	Sa	7.1	20.5	0	3.8	9.2	NE	20	11:01	11.7	69	1	Е	7	1026.1	19.9	40	1	ESE	6	1023.7
4	Su	4.7	22.3	0	3.0	9.3	ENE	26	10:42	11.4	63	0	ENE	7	1026.7	21.0	33	0	Е	11	1023.9
5	Мо	3.6	24.1	0	2.2	9.3	NE	22	11:43	11.8	64	0	Е	6	1025.7	23.4	29	0	ENE	4	1022.0
6	Tu	6.6	22.2	0	2.6	9.1	N	22	09:54	14.9	70	1	NNE	6	1023.2	21.7	51	1	WSW	7	1021.6
7	We	7.6	19.1	0	1.8	7.5	SE	30	14:23	13.5	84	3	SE	11	1028.3	18.4	52	2	Е	13	1028.1
8	Th	2.8	17.3	0	1.6	9.2	ENE	37	11:34	9.5	64	1	Е	11	1034.6	17.2	38	0	Е	11	1030.4
9	Fr	5.4	17.7	0	2.8	8.9	NNE	30	12:31	9.9	80	3	Е	11	1033.9	17.7	47	6	Е	13	1029.7
10	Sa	5.6	18.8	0	2.6	7.9	NNE	33	11:24	10.0	73	5	Е	6	1033.7	17.8	42	7	NE	13	1031.6
11	Su	4.3	20.1	0	2.2	9.3	NE	31	11:29	11.4	70	1	ENE	9	1033.3	19.5	34	1	ENE	11	1028.7
12	Мо	4.2	21.6	0	2.2	9.0	Ν	28	11:48	12.2	62	2	NE	11	1026.6	20.6	33	3	NW	11	1022.4
13	Tu	4.2	22.8	0	2.6	7.5	NNE	30	11:26	11.8	53	3	NE	13	1021.2	21.5	28	5	NNE	9	1017.8
14	We	9.7	23.6	0	3.2	7.7	ENE	24	14:39	12.8	46	7	Е	7	1022.8	23.0	24	1	Е	11	1021.3
15	Th	5.4	21.8	0	5.2	9.2	ESE	20	15:52	10.9	50	0	Е	7	1026.7	20.9	22	0	Е	9	1024.6
16	Fr	2.8	20.0	0	3.6	9.2	NE	19	02:58	9.5	46	0	Е	7	1028.0	18.8	22	0	SSE	4	1024.2
17	Sa	-0.7	20.0	0	2.2	7.6	SSW	26	14:58	8.6	56	5	ENE	4	1023.7	18.3	33	6	SW	17	1020.9
18	Su		22.4	0	2.2	9.2	NNW	20	13:48	7.8	74	1	NNE	6	1021.6	21.2	30	1	SW	9	1016.9
19	Мо	5.5	21.4	0	1.8	3.2	WNW	46	14:30	11.5	60	7	NNE	7	1013.1	17.9	82	7	NW	19	1009.7
20	Tu	11.5	18.6	4.4	1.2	5.0	WSW	44	12:55	16.2	64	7	SW	19	1017.1	17.9	51	5	SW	19	1018.6
21	We	10.7	18.8	0	3.8	6.4	NE	17	11:21	12.3	82	7	NE	2	1023.2	17.3	54	4	SSW	6	1021.8
22	Th	3.5	19.7	0	0.4	9.0	NE	28	12:42	10.4	83	2	NE	7	1024.7	19.1	44	3	NE	11	1021.9
23	Fr	6.8	20.4	0	2.2	9.2	SE	20	13:18	11.4	65	1	ENE	7	1022.8	19.9	33	1	SE	9	1020.6
24			22.0	0	3.0	9.2	NE	28	14:19	11.6	59				1026.8	22.0				11	1023.6
25	Su	4.7	22.6	0	2.2	8.7	NW	24	15:13				NE	7	1025.5	l :				13	1021.6
26	Мо	8.1	18.3	1.4	2.6	2.9	SSE	24	04:34	13.9	97	3	NNW	2	1026.0	17.3	65		SSW	2	1024.1
27			20.3		2.2		WNW		15:54						1018.1	16.9			WNW		1013.4
28			15.8		1.4	5.8	SSW		00:19	12.0			SSE		1023.6	15.7			SSE		1024.2
29	Th	7.0	17.3	0	2.2	0.2	N		13:05		80			7	1028.3	17.2	58	7	ENE	7	1025.9
30			21.0		0.8	3.1	WNW	33	13:38	11.7	91	7	N	9	1024.5	20.1	61	7	W	20	1021.7
			une 2																		
Me			20.3		2.3	7.4				11.6					1025.5	19.4					1022.7
Low			15.8		0.4	0.2					46				1013.1	15.7			SSW		1009.7
High		11.5	24.1	12.4	5.2		WNW	65		16.2	99	8	SW	19	1034.6	23.4	82	7	#	20	1031.6
To	tal			24.6	69.6	223.0															

Bunbury, Western Australia June 2006 Daily Weather Observations

Source: Bureau of Meteorology. Bunbury {station 009965}.

	Temps			_		Max	wind	gust		am			3 pm								
Date	Day		Max	Rain	Evap	Sun	Dir		Time	Temp	RH			baS	MSLP	Temp	RH			Spd	MSLP
		°C		mm	mm	hours		km/h		°C				km/h		°C				km/h	
1	Th	5.5	18.5	0			Е	24	07:24	10.8	94		Е	7	1028.2	18.0	52		W	11	1025.2
2	Fr	2.7	19.9	0.2			ESE	26	11:40	10.2	98		Е	7	1027.5	18.3	59		SW	13	1024.3
3	Sa	7.2	20.0	0			ENE	33	10:48	13.6	67		Е	13	1027.1	18.7	40		ENE	13	1024.6
4	Su	2.2	19.9	0			Е	19	09:22	11.6	65		Е	11	1027.5	19.6	35		WNW	6	1024.8
5	Мо	1.1	20.2	0			N	19	11:56	9.9	93		ESE	6	1026.3	19.7	37		W	7	1023.4
6	Tu	2.0	22.0	0			N	24	11:58	11.6	85		ENE	7	1022.8	20.9	56		WNW	15	1021.3
7	We	9.5	18.7	0			SE	43	13:43	11.4	85		SE	7	1030.2	16.9	42		ESE	20	1029.9
8	Th	3.7	17.2	0			Е	35	11:29	7.9	71		ESE	7	1036.4	16.9	40		ESE	17	1032.1
9	Fr	1.9	16.7	0			ESE	31	13:00	7.4	96		(Calm	1035.1	15.0	55		Е	17	1031.6
10	Sa	7.3	15.3	0			NE	26	11:27	11.6	74		NE	9	1035.0	15.2	56		SSE	2	1032.9
11	Su	3.3	19.2	0			NNW	30	14:49	12.7	64		NE	15	1033.7	17.9	46		Ν	19	1029.1
12	Мо	3.3	19.6	0			N	39	15:21	14.2	55		NNE	15	1025.8	18.7	61		N	26	1021.6
13	Tu	9.5	15.7	2.8			S	24	20:27	15.6	41		NE	6	1021.1	14.2	70		SSE	9	1019.2
14	We	7.6	22.9	0			ESE	31	12:49	13.2	47		SE	17	1023.9	22.1	22		ESE	20	1023.1
15	Th	3.8	20.8	0			Е	30	09:47	13.0	49		ESE	9	1028.2	20.3	25		Е	15	1026.0
16	Fr	0.7	19.0	0			NE	24	11:21	9.8	58		Е	9	1029.1	18.3	25		ENE	11	1025.1
17	Sa	-3.0	19.1	0			W	20	14:20	5.8	77		ESE	6	1024.2	17.3	45		WNW	11	1021.6
18	Su	2.6	20.1	0			N	33	12:51	10.6	88		NE	9	1020.4	18.8	56		N	22	1017.0
19	Мо	10.0	20.3	0			WSW		22:34				NNW		1010.0	17.0			WNW		1007.3
20			17.5	7.6			WSW		04:55	14.8			WSW		1016.5	15.3			WSW		1018.1
21			17.1	0			SSW		02:27	12.6			ENE		1022.9	16.5			NW		1021.7
22			19.1	0			ENE		12:07	10.1			ESE		1025.2	18.3			ESE		1022.6
23			20.1	0			NE		12:32	9.5			ESE		1024.1	19.6			SSE		1021.9
24			21.5	0			ENE		12:03				ESE		1028.2	20.7			NE		1024.3
25			20.3				W		21:25				ENE		1025.2				NNW		1021.7
	Мо		18.1				SSW		00:07				ESE		1026.0				SSW		1024.0
27			19.8				WSW		17:13				WNW		1015.8				W		1011.1
	We		16.8				SSW		00:09				SSW		1023.2				SSW		1023.9
29			17.9				NW		22:56				ENE		1027.7				NW		1025.3
30			19.7				WNW	52	12:50	17.7	68		WNW	20	1022.3	18.2	69		NW	22	1020.1
			une 2	1												I					
Me			19.1							11.9					1025.7						1023.2
Low			15.3							5.8					1010.0				SSE		1007.3
High		12.2	22.9				WSW	72		19.1	98		WNW	30	1036.4	22.1	73		W	33	1032.9
To	tal			26.8																	

Busselton Airport, Western Australia June 2006 Daily Weather Observations

Source: Bureau of Meteorology. Busselton Aero $\{station\ 009603\}$.

Data	D	Temps		Rain	Evap	Sun	Max w gus	9 am						3 pm						
Date	рау	Min	Мах				Dir Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP
		°C	°C	mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	8 th		km/h	hPa	°C	%	8 th		km/h	hPa
1	Th	6	18						11.3	83		Е	9	1028.0	17.4	55		WNW	11	1025.1
2	Fr	4	19						10.7	85			Calm	1027.4	18.5	43		SE	13	1024.2
3	Sa	8	19						13.2	77		Е	15	1026.9	18.8	45		ENE	11	1024.4
4	Su	5	19						11.5	68		Е	9	1027.2	17.7	39		NNW	11	1024.6
5	Мо	1	20						9.7	80		SW	2	1025.8	18.8	50		NNW	11	1023.1
6	Tu	1	21						9.7	78		ESE	6	1022.0	20.5	57		NNW	17	1020.7
7	We	6	18						11.6	92		SE	9	1030.3	16.5	45		SE	35	1030.0
8	Th	0	17						8.2	75		S	4	1035.9	16.4	41		ESE	19	1032.1
9	Fr	3	17						9.0	91		Е	17	1034.8	14.9	59		ESE	24	1031.7
10	Sa	7	14						11.5	79		ESE	9	1034.8	14.1	59		NE	4	1032.9
11	Su	5	19						10.5	73		ENE	15	1033.2	17.8	50		Ν	24	1028.9
12	Мо	5	19						14.2	67		NNE	22	1024.7	17.7	71		N	31	1020.7
13	Tu	11	13						11.0	91		Е	4	1020.7	12.4	91		SE	13	1019.0
14	We	9	21						13.1	53		ESE	22	1023.9	20.3	30		SE	20	1023.5
15	Th	8	20						12.1	58		Е	20	1028.0	19.0	28		SE	15	1025.9
16	Fr	4	18						9.2	64		Е	15	1029.0	17.4	27		ENE	13	1024.9
17	Sa	-1	19						4.8	78		ESE	6	1023.8	17.1	43		NNW	11	1021.3
18	Su	5	19						11.3	70		ENE	13	1019.6	17.0	70		N	26	1016.2
19	Мо	11	19						15.9	91		NNW	28	1008.8	16.2	74		W	30	1006.6
20	Tu	11	16						13.3	74		W	15	1015.9	14.7	55		WSW	19	1017.7
21	We	8	18						11.7	77		Е	2	1022.3	17.2	51		W	17	1021.1
22	Th	6	18						11.4	94		Е	11	1024.7	16.9	50		Е	7	1022.5
23	Fr	4	19						9.5	81		SE	6	1023.9	18.3	45		SE	11	1021.8
24	Sa	6	21						11.3	71		Е	15	1027.7	19.7	40		N	15	1024.1
25	Su	3	20						9.2	83		Е	6	1024.5	19.4	64		WNW	26	1021.4
26	Мо	5	18						9.5	96		ESE	7	1025.5	16.1	54		SSW	9	1023.6
27	Tu	6	19						16.7	71		WNW	28	1014.6	15.6	74		W	33	1010.8
28	We	7	15						10.7	81		WSW	6	1022.6	14.9	58		SSW	13	1023.7
29	Th	6	17						12.2	84			Calm	1027.1	17.0	59		NW	20	1024.5
30	Fr	12	19						16.0	77		W	24	1021.4	17.6	77		NW	24	1019.0
Statis	stics	for J	lune 2	2006																
Me	an	5.7	18.3						11.3	78			11	1025.2	17.2	53			17	1022.9
Low	est	-1	13						4.8	53			Calm	1008.8	12.4	27		NE	4	1006.6
High	nest	12	21						16.7	96		#	28	1035.9	20.5	91		SE	35	1032.9
To	tal																			