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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE HAS BEEN DETECTED IN SUNFLOWER AND THE OAK CREEK CANYON AREA

7 July 2015. Due mainly to the cool spring weather experienced this year, sycamore anthracnose a foliage disease, has caused noticeable discoloration and defoliation of Arizona sycamores. Infected trees are very visible in the community of Sunflower in Gila County and Oak Creek Canyon in Coconino County.

Other areas in Gila County where the disease was identified includes Star Valley, Little Green Valley, Kohl's Ranch and Tonto Creek.

The disease is more unsightly than damaging to large infected trees, due mainly to the discolored and dead leaves found on the tree and on the ground. It can cause twig mortality and multiple twigs to form with repeated infections. However, it occurs infrequently over large areas and infected large trees recover quickly from the effects.

Previous reports of heavily infected sycamores in these areas occurred in the early 1980's and 1990's and 2004-05.

Additional reference information about this disease is available at the following links:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/resources/health/field-guide/fd/sycamore.shtml>

<http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archive/sycamoreanthracnose.html>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/02930.pdf>

For further information about this disease or other forest and woodland health concerns in the affected areas, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester at (602) 771-1415 bobcelaya@azsf.gov.

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