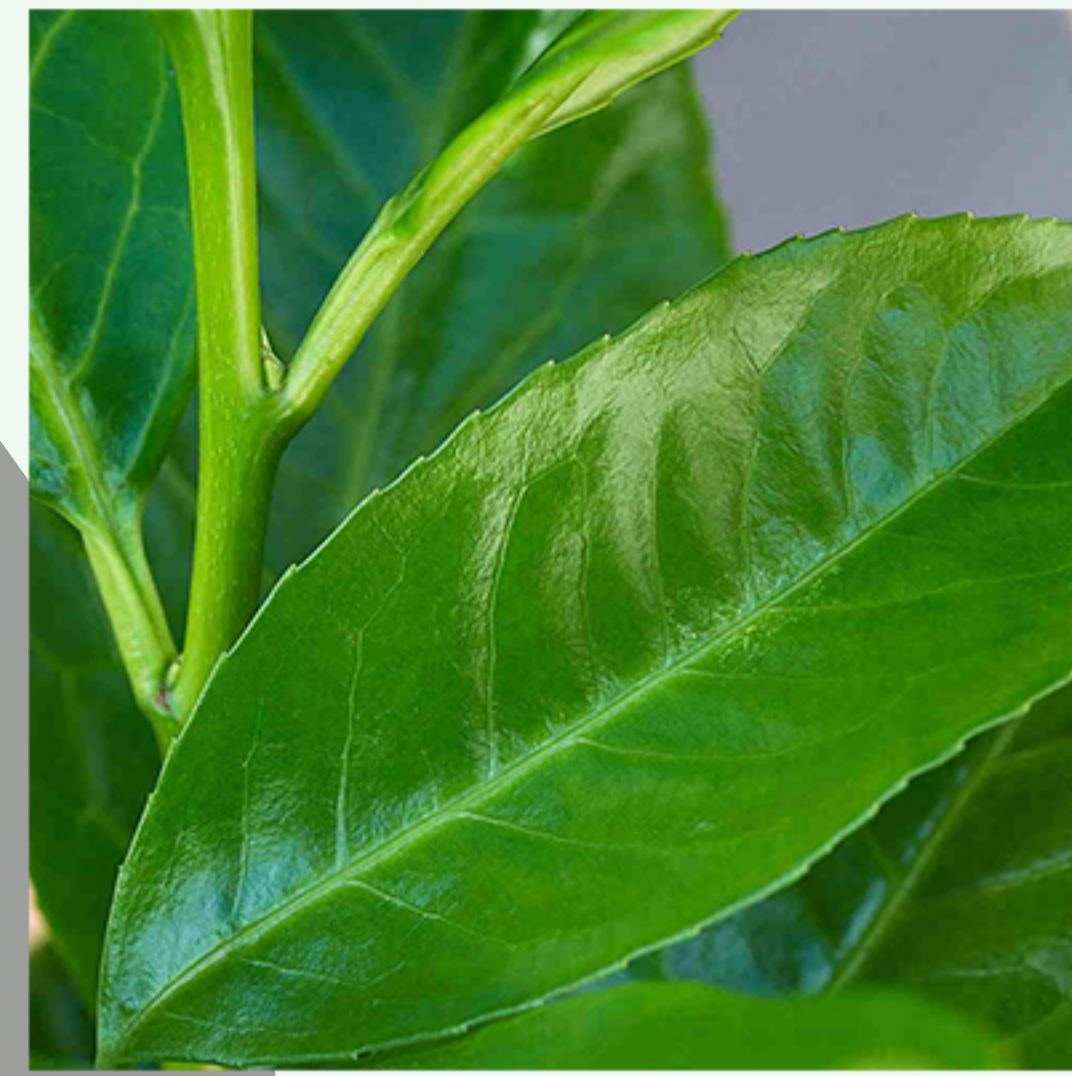


Serious About Shot Hole

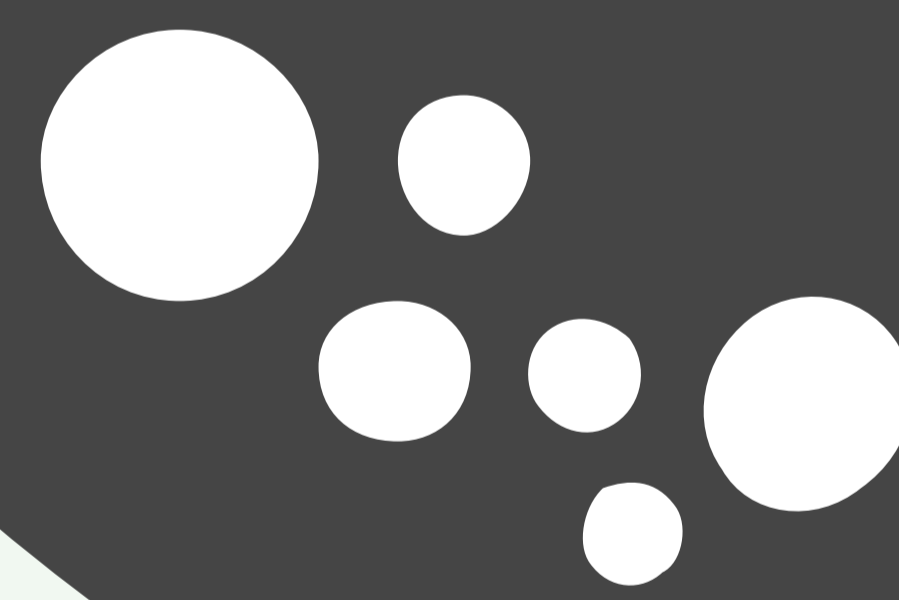
What is shot hole?

Shot-hole disease can affect all varieties of *Prunus laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurel) and *Prunus lusitanica* (Portuguese Laurel).

Shot-hole is not a parasite, pest or fungal infection but rather the symptom of the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* which exists on all Laurel plants (just as both good and bad bacteria are present in all living things at any given time).



These holes are actually a sign of a healthy leaf protecting itself. The leaf forms a protective barrier against the damage, this eventually kills off this part of the leaf and it browns and forms a hole. The best possible treatment is keeping the hedge plants well fed and ensure that they are getting enough water (whilst ensuring you are not over watering). Certainly, if there are any really 'bad offenders' and the odd leaf looks particularly unsightly you can clip it off without worry.



Shot-hole is not a disease that will threaten the life of a laurel and most plants will grow out of the problem once the growing conditions change (i.e. the laurel is planted into the ground where it does not need to be watered with sprinklers or the weather becomes drier) and new leaves are produced that cover up the diseased leaves.

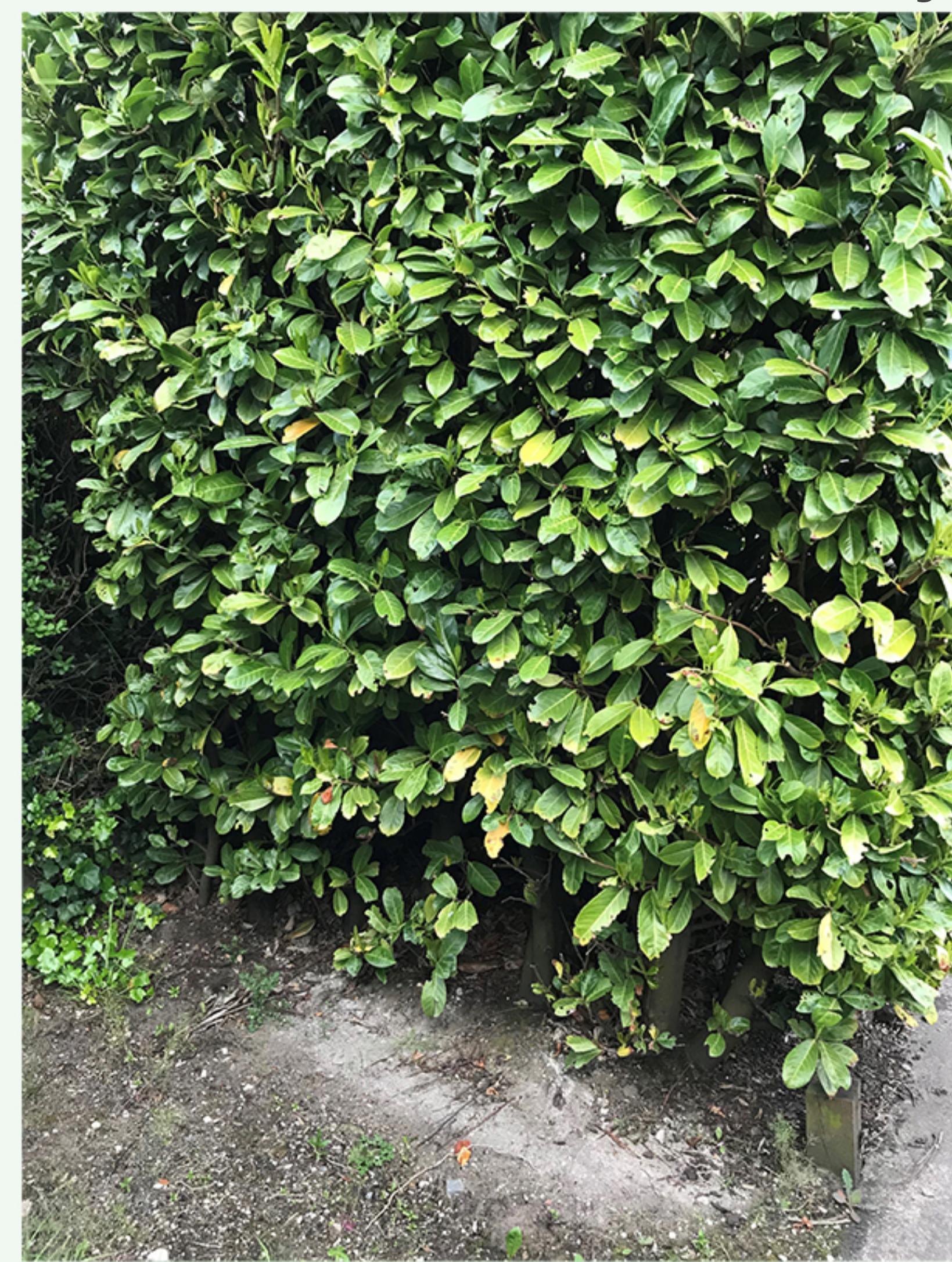


Symptoms

Brown leaf spots between 2 and 10mm in diameter that eventually drop out to leave the leaf looking like it has been shot with a shot-gun (hence the name shot-hole)



Photos taken in May



Photos taken in June



Control

Chemical control is not necessary. Laurel plants will grow through the disease when the weather or growing conditions change. When the plants put on new growth, it will cover up the disease. Do not water the leaves, water the soil around the base of the plant when watering a plant. Wet leaves seem to make the disease worse, so make sure not to water your plants from overhead. If your shrubs are very close together or near a wall that prevents leaf drying, prune them to enhance air flow. The fungicide/bactericide Mancozeb or products containing fixed copper are effective against shot hole if you choose to spray a pesticide.

Laurel will grow through the disease!