However, a number of other tree diseases have dramatically affected trees in a variety of landscapes or production systems that also captured the attention of forest pathologists. Many of these continue to pose a threat to the health and value of urban and rural forest ecosystems. While significant mortality is associated with root infections, sub-lethal infections of stems and foliage (causing stunting, chlorosis and top dieback) render affected seedlings unsaleable. In the southern US black walnut, yellow poplar and eastern white pine have been the species most severely affected. Tree Diseases 101: What Diseases Kill Trees? Tree disease is far more common than most homeowners realize. This illness was first found in 1944 in Wisconsin but has now spread to 21 states. Oak wilt is devastating and can kill rapidly within a single season. It’s systemic and fungal and impacts over 20 species of trees across the United States. Some of the most common areas for this tree disease include New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, South Carolina, and Minnesota. Leaf spot is a common term used to describe a number of tree diseases that leave spots on tree and shrub foliage. These tree diseases are most commonly caused by fungi but can be caused by bacterial infections as well. One of the most well-known leaf spot diseases in our area is Anthracnose. Leaf spots are the most common diseases of shade and ornamental trees. Most of these diseases are favored by cool weather, light and frequent rains, fog or heavy dews, high humidity, and crowded or shady plantings. A few spots on the leaves do little harm to a tree, and are far more unsightly than they are injurious. However, leaf spot infections that start early in the growing season can. Shade trees like oaks and maples help cool your home and provide a habitat for wildlife. Here are 10 fast growing trees that add shade to your yard. The tree’s foliage is dark green most of the year, but in the fall, this deciduous tree becomes a striking shade of red. The Texas red oak grows at a rate of approximately two feet per year, and can reach a mature height of 50 to 80 feet with a spread of 40 to 65 feet. USDA Growing Zones: 6 to 9. a late-spring defoliator of many hardwood tree species. In addition to the damage caused by defoliation, the dirty, silken trees—which are filled with frass and cast larval skins—can ruin the appearance of ornamentals. The preferred hosts of this insect are wild cherry and abandoned apple trees, but it also attacks many other species of forest, shade, and fruit trees. Caterpillars emerge from the eggs in early spring, about when buds are opening. After a short feeding period, caterpillars from one or more egg mass spin a web in a tree crotch.