



# NEWS PUZZLE

## 'Conker Crisis'

Britain's two million conker trees could disappear in the next 15 years, due to a disease called bleeding canker. Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the articles themselves – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!

### FRONT PAGE

## CONKER CRISIS

### TREES COULD VANISH IN 15 YEARS

**BRITAIN'S two million conker trees could disappear in the next 15 years. Disease and a European moth are being blamed.**

The leaf-mining moth's caterpillars eat the tree's leaves from the inside, turning the leaves brown and forcing them to drop in the summer before the conkers have fully grown.

The moth may also be spreading a fungal disease called bleeding canker which can kill trees. Another problem is that councils are cutting down many horse chestnut trees so that people aren't hit by diseased branches when they fall.

New trees are not being planted because they only last up to five years before they are killed. Professor Robert Jackson from the University of Reading says: "At the moment the picture looks pretty bleak. Really, we need to assess the population to see if it can survive."

A Forestry Commission survey in 2007 found more than 70% of trees in some parts of England had the disease, with 36% in Wales and 42% in Scotland showing some symptoms.

The conker crisis is a big worry for organisers of the World Conker Championships. The 2016 contest took place in the village of Southwick, Northants, last weekend.

The question is – will Britain still be able to host the championships by 2030? It could be a hard nut to crack!

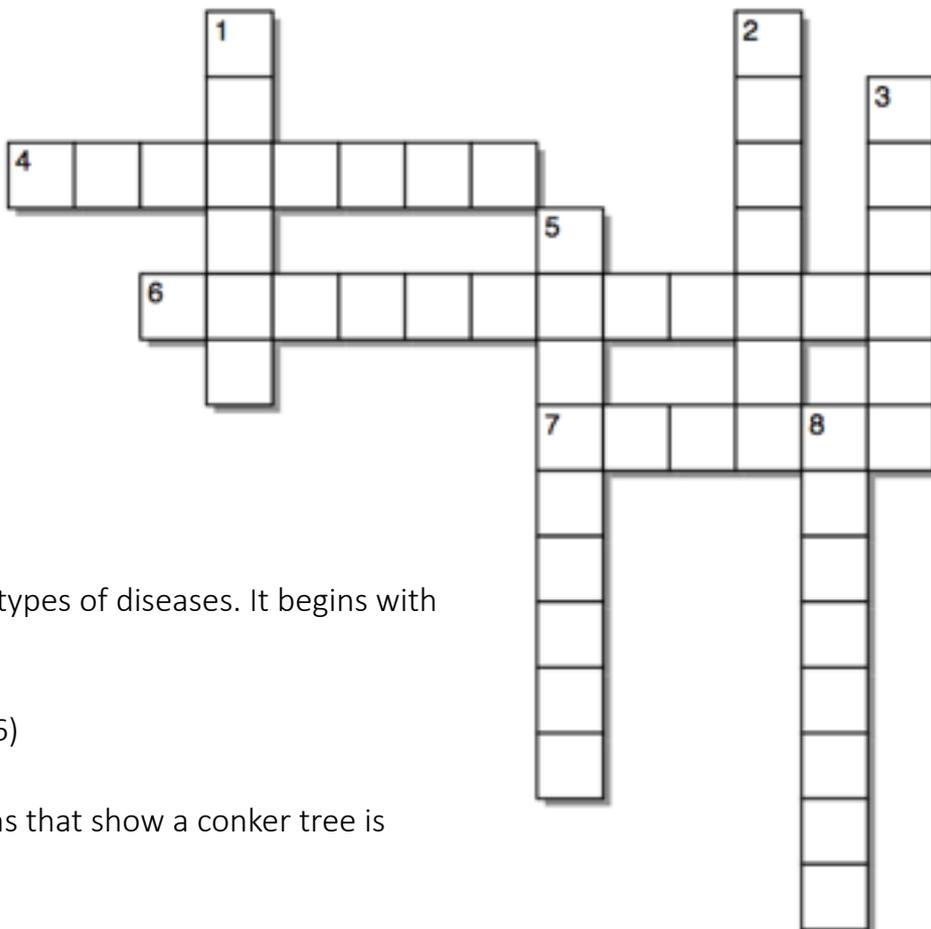


#### Across

- 4. These are made up of people who are elected to look after towns and cities. (plural noun 8)
- 6. These are the larvae of leaf-mining moths. They are worm-like. (plural noun 12)
- 7. This means to check out the conker trees that are still around. (verb 6)

#### Down

- 1. Bleeding canker is one of these types of diseases. It begins with the letter 'f'. (adjective 6)
- 2. infection, sickness (noun 7)
- 3. catastrophe, emergency (noun 6)
- 5. vanish, die out (verb 9)
- 8. This is another word for the signs that show a conker tree is diseased. (plural noun 8)





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Britain's two million conker trees could disappear in the next 15 years, due to a disease called bleeding canker. Read the story, from page 1 of the newspaper, and then try the puzzle. The answers to the clues are all words in the articles. Answer the clue and then underline the word in the story.

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