

	<b>Garden Q &amp; A</b>
	<b>Stephen H. Brown</b>



## Topic: Persian Lime Bark Damage

**Question:** I have a Persian lime tree, approximately six years old that is a great producer of limes. Almost overnight, the leaves turned yellow, curled up and the tree looks like it is going to die. Nothing was sprayed on the tree or on the lawn around it. We see no insect damage on the tree. Can you help identify the problem and give us help in trying to save the tree? Also, it has quite a bit of mature fruit and a lot of new fruit starting. Are they safe to eat?

- Elaine, email

**Answer:** Thanks for including pictures in your email. Although you did not focus in on the trunk of the tree, a damaged trunk appears to be the source of the problem. The bark appears peeled on the side the pictures were taken. If the bark around the tree is damaged, it is over for the tree. Killing the trunk by way of the bark means no water or nutrient uptake, consequently leaves wilt, curl upward, and become yellow. Bark damage can be mechanical or caused by a fungal disease. The former is usually by a weed-whacker or a lawn mower and the latter by Phytophthora. The fruit are safe to eat.



## Useful Links

[Citrus Problems in the Home Landscape](#)  
[Stephen's Webpage](#)

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml>. For native plants click on Publications A-Z.

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