

UPDATE ON PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM – END OF OCTOBER 2011

Current Situation – Extent of Infection in Larch Woodlands

Aerial surveys have continued throughout the summer to identify larch woodlands where there are some symptoms of poor health. All suspect sites have been followed up with a site visit to determine the cause of symptoms observed.

For England, the following table summarises the number of suspect sites investigated and the proportion that have been served with Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) to fell larch in 2011 and compares this with 2010.

ENGLAND	Year	Land Ownership	Total Number of Suspect Sites	Number of Sites where SPHNs have been served	Total Felling Area within SPHNs (ha)	Total estimated Felling Volume ('000m ³ ob std)
	2010	FC	63	15	239.2	55
		Non FC	301	104	619.3	110
		Total	364	119	858.5	165
	2011	FC	56	10	139.8	22
		Non FC	420	90	265.0	52
		Total	476	100	404.8	74
	Total to Date	FC	119	25	379.0	77
		Non FC	721	194	884.3	162
		Total	840	219	1,263.3	239

Reference Date of data: 14 October 2011

The key points to take from this table are:

- The total area that needs to be felled under SPHN served in 2011 is 47% of the area served in 2010 (a reduction from 858.5 ha to 404.8 ha)
- 79% of suspect sites observed during 2011 surveys have proved to be causes other than *Phytophthora ramorum*
- Although the number of suspect sites has risen from 364 in 2010 to 476 in 2011, this is because threshold of symptoms that have led to site

investigations has been far lower in 2011. Even woodlands with a single tree showing poor health have been followed up on the ground.

The table in Annex 1 provides the same analysis for each country.

Current Situation – Distribution of Infection in Larch Woodlands

A map is separately attached showing the distribution of SPHN sites served in both 2010 and 2011.

The key points to take from this map are:

- In some cases the 2011 sites do reflect spread of the disease from 2010 but some have been picked up because of more extensive surveillance this year. The apparently “new” areas of infection in south Lancashire and the Lake District are likely to have been present last year.
- The trend of infection in 2011 is that the extent of symptoms on new individual sites is generally much lower than seen on sites observed in 2010 and new sites are generally in the vicinity of previously known infections.
- In general, we have seen localised expansion of existing clusters of infection but we are only seeing low levels of symptomatic trees at these new sites. This is consistent in both England and Wales.
- The main areas of new concern are centred around recently discovered sites in south Lancashire and the Lake District, and sites on Mull and SW Scotland.

Current Situation – Distribution of Infection on Other Hosts

The map below shows the distribution of positive infections on Rhododendron in the natural environment (i.e. outside ornamental gardens, nurseries and plant retail sites).

The blue and yellow dots on the map represent all sites of infection found since 2003, but the blue dots represent sites that have been confirmed within the last 18 months. Active clearance work is underway on some of the blue dot sites, but the remainder and all yellow dot sites have been completed.

The green dots on the map represent sites where surveys have been undertaken and no infection has been found.

Surveys of rhododendron in England and Wales are undertaken by staff from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), and surveillance for disease spread by both Fera and FC is informed and directed by confirmed infections across all host plants.



Progress with Action on Infected Larch Woodlands

Overall, the degree of compliance with SPHNs has been encouraging.

At the end of September, 128 of the 219 SPHN sites in England have been completed and the majority of the outstanding sites are more recent confirmations and have target dates for completion towards the end of March 2012.

Although 58% of the number of SPHN sites have been completed this represents 74% of the total area requiring action under SPHN.

Annex 1: Extent of Outbreak by Country

PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM OUTBREAK - SITUATION as at 14 OCTOBER 2011

	Year	Land Ownership	Total Number of Suspect Sites	Number of Sites where SPHNs have been served	Total Felling Area within SPHNs (ha)	Total estimated Felling Volume ('000m ³ ob std)
ENGLAND	2010	FC	63	15	239.2	55
		Non FC	301	104	619.3	110
		Total	364	119	858.5	165
	2011	FC	56	10	139.8	22
		Non FC	420	90	265.0	52
		Total	476	100	404.8	74
	Total to Date	FC	119	25	379.0	77
		Non FC	721	194	884.3	162
		Total	840	219	1,263.3	239
WALES	2010	FC	359	22	873.0	200
		Non FC	92	2	3.6	1
		Total	451	24	876.6	201
	2011	FC	1080	112	436.0	96
		Non FC	208	7	55.0	12
		Total	1288	119	491.0	108
	Total to Date	FC	1439	134	1,309.0	296
		Non FC	300	9	58.6	13
		Total	1739	143	1,367.6	309
Wales: see Note 1 below						
SCOTLAND	2010	FC	2			
		Non FC	6	1	1.5	<1
		Total	8	1	1.5	<1
	2011	FC	39			
		Non FC	67	1	7.0	2
		Total	106	1	7.0	2
	Total to Date	FC	41	0	0.0	0
		Non FC	73	2	8.5	2
		Total	114	2	8.5	2
Scotland: see Note 2 below						

GREAT BRITAIN	2010	FC	424	37	1,112.2	255
		Non FC	399	107	624.4	111
		Total	823	144	1,736.6	366
	2011	FC	1175	122	575.8	118
		Non FC	695	98	327.0	66
		Total	1870	220	902.8	184
	Total to Date	FC	1599	159	1,688.0	373
		Non FC	1094	205	951.4	176
		Total	2693	364	2,639.4	549

N.IRELAND	2010	FC	0	6	301.0	59
		Non FC	0	3	6.0	1
		Total	0	9	307.0	60
	2011	FC	64	7	42.4	7
		Non FC	29	4	7.3	1
		Total	93	11	49.7	8
	Total to Date	FC	64	13	343.4	66
		Non FC	29	7	13.3	2
		Total	93	20	356.7	68

Notes:

1. The apparent large increase in the number of sites in Wales in 2011 simply reflects a change in the way a "site" is defined – the area under SPHN gives a better impression of trends in scale of infection.

2. The figures for Scotland pre-date the recently confirmed sites in SW Scotland and Mull.