

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

29 April 2014

PLANT HEALTH:

New grant and revised guidance

Following the end of the five year DEFRA funded plant health programme, managed by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), support for woodland Plant Health issues has now been brought within the suite of woodland support offered by the Forestry Commission through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS).

This support is offered through a new Plant Health Woodland Improvement Grant (PH WIG) which brings together a number of previous plant health support mechanisms. Additionally we will be retaining Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG) where the restocking is following defined Plant Health issues. The respective new and updated guidance is available via the following links:

[Plant Health Woodland Improvement Grant](#)

[Plant Health Woodland Regeneration Grant](#)

Despite significant demands on budgets we have, through restrictions imposed elsewhere within EWGS, maintained funding for these high priority grant funds.

Plant Health WIG

The PH WIG brings together elements of the following previous grant support:

- removing *Rhododendron* within 3km of *Phytophthora ramorum* and *kernoviae* infections
- removing *P.ramorum* infected immature larch

- paying a site fee to cover the costs of professional help in implementing harvesting plans for *P.ramorum* infected larch

This new PH WIG also replaces elements of the previous WIG for removal of recently planted ash on *Chalara fraxinea* infected sites.

This grant is designed to cover the infections mentioned above and any subsequent plant health disease the Forestry Commission decides requires action that can be funded through EWGS.

Plant Health WRG

Due to the significant uptake of WRG in previous years and the need to maintain funding for other, higher priority, grant types, funding for WRG is now limited to the 14/15 and 15/16 years to **restocking sites related to plant health issues only**. The revised guidance sets out:

- revised eligibility requirements for WRG in relation to Plant Health
- payment rates and available claim years
- extension of the Plant Health related supplements to include *Chalara* infected sites

These arrangements are subject to ongoing budget availability.



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Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Handling Oak material in areas affected by Oak Processionary Moth Reform communications

On 14 April the first CAP Reform communication to customers was published on www.gov.uk/cap-reform. This is a new leaflet entitled 'An introduction to the new Common Agricultural Policy schemes in England', and it provides an introduction to the new 2015 CAP schemes as well as giving an overview of what these will mean for customers.

The leaflet includes:

- an overview of the new Rural Development Programme;
- some details of the Basic Payment Scheme, the greening rules and young farmers payment;
- an updated timeline for CAP Reform Countdown (this has also been updated on GOV.UK)
- an introduction to the new online service.

The leaflet contains the most up-to-date information that is available as not all detailed policy has been finalised. Further updates will be provided once more detail is decided. The webpage www.gov.uk/cap-reform will be kept updated throughout 2014.

A [good practice guide](#) on how to identify and report sightings of Oak processionary moth (OPM) whilst working on trees in or close to areas affected by OPM, has been written and is published on [our website](#).

Any person responsible for tree-work sites within OPM-affected areas should be aware of the contents of this practice guide, and follow it when working on oak trees.

