

Forest Reproductive Material

Issue 5, December 2015

UPDATE – Review of Plant Reproductive Material

Currently there is very little to report. The European Commission intends to do a ‘re-fit’ evaluation to better understand the needs of the different Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) sectors. It is thought that this will take up to 2 years to complete and is different to an impact assessment. The Commission will decide whether to make another PRM proposal towards the end of this year or the first quarter of next year. As always, we will update you as soon as we know more.

Forest Reproductive Material – Semantic system

Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material requires the Commission to maintain an EU list of forest basic material. This list is currently maintained in the form of an MS-Excel table that is published on their website. Member states submit their national lists annually.

Over the past few years, the Commission have been working on creating a semantic web based system with the aim of having a direct link to Member States (MS) national lists, easy access to the national websites, a simplified search tool and the possibility to introduce relevant information from many different data resources.

The semantic Forest Reproductive Material Information System will become publicly available early next year. Once this is live, I will send out information on how to gain access and provide any user instructions if these are required.

Juniper

Phytophthora austrocedri (*P. austrocedri*) is a fungus-like pathogen which poses a threat to juniper trees in Britain. Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is an important native species, and a significant proportion of the small area of juniper woodland in Britain is protected. *P. austrocedri* was first reported in the UK in 2011, and infected trees have since been found at sites across Scotland and the north of England. The pathogen primarily attacks juniper roots, killing phloem and forming lesions which extend up into the lower stem. Eventually the tree will be killed by girdling of the main stem. *P. austrocedri* is currently a notifiable pathogen and all suspected cases should be reported to the plant health authorities.

An advice note on planting and managing juniper sites where *P.austrocedri* has been confirmed is currently being drafted and will include biosecurity advice on collecting seed for propagation.



What's in this edition?

- Update – Review of PRM
- FRM Semantic system
- Juniper
- Ash
- Plant passporting requirements
- Non-compliance issues
- Staff update
- Enquiries

Meanwhile Forest Research have indicated that ongoing research work is suggesting that *P. austrocedri* is viable within the berry after surface sterilisation and may be colonising the seed. This means that previous advice to surface sterilise the berries needs adjusting. The following is now required to mitigate the risk of spread whether collecting seed from known infected sites or sites where the disease has not been confirmed:

Allow berry collection from any site provided the seed is extracted and air dried at room temperature and the left over berry material autoclaved or soaked in 10% domestic bleach solution before being disposed of.

The link below will take you to our Plant Health pages. A map showing infected sites is available:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/paustrocedri>

We will be aiming to inspect all seed collection notifications that we receive for Juniper.

Ash – *Fraxinus excelsior*

We have received a few enquires lately about collecting Ash seed.

Just a reminder that there are still regulations in place via Plant Health Orders that prohibits all imports of ash seeds, plants and trees, and all internal movement of ash seeds, plants and trees.

The link below will take you to our Plant Health page on Chalara dieback of ash.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

Biosecurity

Practicing good biosecurity is important when working in any forest or woodland, or when entering any land or premises where there is a risk of spreading tree pests and diseases.

For practical biosecurity guidance and free eLearning biosecurity modules see:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-8zjmq4>

Some useful information on Plant passporting requirements for FRM species

For Abies, passports are required if you are intending to grow on in the nursery but these are not required where the plants, etc. have been prepared and are ready for sale to the final consumer. The genera covered by the passporting requirements are:

Abies (Poplar rust, *Melampsora medusae*, for growing on, not zone protected (**ZP**) status)

Castanea (sweet chestnut blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, for all forms of sale, has ZP status for seed and plants)

Fraxinus (Chalara disease of ash. *Chalara fraxinea*, all forms of sale, plants and seed) no EU member states meet our landing requirements at present and there can be no internal movement

Larix (Poplar rust, *Melampsora medusae*, for growing on, not ZP status)

Picea (Poplar rust, *Melampsora medusae*, for growing on, not ZP status)

Pinus (*Dothistroma* needle blight, *Dothistroma septosporum* (and *D. pini*))

Platanus (Plane wilt, Ceratocystis platini , for all forms of sale, has ZP status for plants) some EU member states meet our landing requirements at present
Populus (Poplar rust, Melampsora medusae, for growing on, not ZP status)

Non-compliance with the FRM Regulations – Recurring issues which have been found following recent inspections of Registered suppliers

- **Seed Collection Notifications** – Suppliers must inform us at least 14 days before they intend to collect seed – this is to allow time for us to arrange a seed collection inspection. (a percentage of all of the collections **MUST** be inspected)
- **Suppliers documents not being supplied** – a supplier document **MUST** be issued for controlled species marketed for forestry purposes, whether asked for by the customer or not. It is a requirement of the Regulations that Supplier’s documents are sent out in all cases and copies must be retained for at least 5 years and made available for inspection
- **Exports not being notified to the Forestry Commission** – We receive notifications from other Member states when FRM is sent to the UK. When we study this data, it is clear that not all UK registered suppliers are notifying us when they export.
- **‘Not for forestry purposes (NFFP)’ not being used** – if you hold stock that is not certified and therefore will not be used for forestry purposes, the Regulations require that stock is identified with the designation ‘Not for Forestry Purposes’. This means that the designation should appear on labels, nursery layout plans/maps or IT systems indications the location of such material. The designation should also appear on documentation provided to customers (invoices, delivery notes etc.)
- **Unregistered suppliers** - through Import notifications and from regular checks on the Internet, it is apparent that there are still nurseries out there that are trading in FRM – but are not registered with the Forestry Commission. We do investigate these Nurseries. The Supplier Register is available from our website. If you are aware of any Nursery selling regulated species for forestry purposes that are not registered with the Forestry Commission, then please let us know. We will deal with any information received with the utmost confidentiality

Guidance on the FRM Regulations is available from our website. If you would like to talk over anything, or if you would welcome a visit from an Inspector to provide guidance and support to ensure you’re compliance with the Regulations, then please get in touch.

Staff Update

Sadly we will be losing Nick Patterson-Sharp to pastures new at the end of December. Not only is he leaving the Forestry Commission, he is relocating from Edinburgh to the South of England. He will remain with the civil service, joining the National Maritime and Coastguards Agency. Although we will all be sorry to see him go, we wish him all the very best for the future in his new location and job.

The good news is that we have welcomed Rebecca Higgins and Sophie Mckenzie to the team. Rebecca and Sophie are new to FRM and Plant Health.

Finally

If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can improve our service, or if you have any comments on our web pages or anything else, then please get in touch. We are always keen to hear of ways in which we can improve the service we provide.

And... Best Wishes for a happy and healthy festive period.



Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this newsletter should be directed to the relevant FRM team member –

Nick Mainprize

Deputy Head of Plant Health with responsibility for FRM

Nick.mainprize@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

0300 067 5149

For enquiries relating to the FRM regulations, Basic Material (e.g. new applications for approval or changes to existing details), web pages, Inspections and general guidance, please contact:

Amanda Campbell

amanda.campbell@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

0300 067 5041

For enquiries relating to the seed collection notifications, the issue of Master certificates, registration of new suppliers or for export notifications please contact:

Nick Patterson-Sharp (until 18/12/15) Rebecca Higgins or Sophie Mckenzie (from 21/12/15)

frm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

0300 067 5129

For Poplar or Aspen issues or for enquiries relating to the issuing of a licence to market material that does not meet the full requirements of the regulations', contact:

Stuart A'Hara

stuart.ahara@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

0300 067 5906

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