



## How you can help

If you are visiting or working in affected woodland, please help to slow the spread of plant diseases by taking some simple precautions.

- Stay on marked paths
- Scrape mud, soil and debris off your boots and bicycle tyres before leaving
- Brush leaves, twigs and debris off your clothes and vehicles (and the dog!) before leaving
- Don't remove wood or plant material from the woodland
- Follow instructions on forest signs



Detailed guidance is available from:  
**forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity**

Other sources of information:

 @TreePestNews

 [forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases](http://forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases)

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# Ramorum disease of larch trees

and the Public  
Forest Estate  
in Cumbria



[forestry.gov.uk/pramorum](http://forestry.gov.uk/pramorum)



# Ramorum disease in Cumbria

Larch trees in Cumbria, including the Lake District, are being affected by the destructive Ramorum disease. Here, we explain this disease and how we are dealing with it on the Public Forest Estate.

Plants with Ramorum disease are subject to Statutory Plant Health Notices or their equivalent. Unfortunately the only available treatment is to fell or kill affected trees quickly to reduce or slow down the rate of spread.

## Key facts

- Ramorum disease is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*), a fungus-like pathogen believed to have originated in Asia and known to affect more than 150 plant species, including Rhododendron and bilberry, a significant native upland plant species
- Ramorum disease is especially destructive on larch trees, capable of killing them within a year
- Infected larch needles produce spores which are carried in mist and rain droplets by the wind. This can spread the disease to other plants over a wider area
- Spores are also spread through water courses, the movement of infected plants, and on soil, litter and plant debris caught on footwear, animals, vehicles and equipment



# Treatment & control

The only effective means of control is to fell or kill infected trees and a buffer zone as quickly as possible. It may look as though some healthy-looking trees are being cut down within the buffer zone. This is because it is important to ensure all affected trees are felled.

## The future

We will restock areas that have been felled with a variety of species, in accordance with the UK Forest Standard, to make the next-generation of woodland as resilient as possible to pests, disease and the effects of climate change.



Resilient species - Rowan sapling.



# Environmental impacts

There will be environmental and landscape implications for the area and we are working with a wide range of stakeholders and partners about how the Public Forest Estate will be changing.

Using our increased knowledge about climate change, we will take the opportunity that felling provides to plant a more diverse range of species

## Timber

The timber from infected larch trees can still be used. The operations team is working with timber customers and the planning team to manage the removal and sale of infected material.



Area of felling within infected larch forest.



Larch trees cover nearly 3200 hectares in Cumbria. The Forestry Commission's Public Forest Estate manages just over 40% of this larch.