

Scotland & Northern Britain

Phytophthora austrocedrae on juniper

Surveys of juniper stands in northern Britain have revealed that the recently emerged pathogen *Phytophthora austrocedrae* is more widespread than was previously thought. Over fifty juniper woodlands throughout Scotland, Cumbria, Co Durham and North Yorkshire are now confirmed to be infected, with juniper showing symptoms of foliage discolouration and dieback (below), mainly as a result of basal lesions.



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Phytophthora lateralis

Outbreaks of *Phytophthora lateralis* on Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) have been occurring sporadically in the UK since the pathogen was first reported in this country in 2010. *P. lateralis* has also been found infecting *Chamaecyparis pisifera* and *Thuja occidentalis*, and most recently was confirmed by Scottish Government Plant Health staff causing foliage infections on *Thuja plicata* near Stirling (below); a new host record for this pathogen.



Photo by Scottish Government Plant Health Inspector

Giant leaf blotch of sycamore

Giant leaf blotch of sycamore (due to infection by the fungus *Pleuroceras pseudoplatani*) has become common in southern Scotland over the last decade and was reported from the north of the country in 2013. However, fruiting bodies of *P. pseudoplatani* are only produced on fallen leaves from March onwards and have rarely been recorded in the UK: a species worth remembering during fungal forays in spring 2014.



England & Wales

Summary of enquiries in 2013/2014

3016 enquiries were received, 1230 for amenity trees and 485 for forest/woodland trees. 1513 enquiries were received as a result of requests for reports of possible cases of Chalara Dieback of ash (see photograph). Of these, 14 were found to be Chalara, 64 some other damaging agent, 463 were non-problems (mostly ash keys mistaken for dieback), 694 could not be investigated due to insufficient information and 278 are still pending.



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Kethia disease of Thuja

We had our first case in 10 years of Kethia disease of Thuja, caused by the fungus *Didymascella thujina*. The disease used to be very troublesome in nurseries and in young hedges but since the 1980s has been rarely reported. It can cause severe needle damage leading to dieback which can be fatal to nursery plants and highly damaging to young hedges. Control in nurseries and young hedges is possible using prochloraz (Octave) but this fungicide can only be obtained and used by professionals.



Kretzschmaria (Ustulina) deusta decay

This decay fungus has been very prevalent this last year appearing mainly on beech, lime and horse chestnut. It causes a severe decay that can be difficult to detect using most of the current decay detecting devices such as the Resistograph. In addition the fruit-bodies are very inconspicuous and easily overlooked making this fungus particularly dangerous on amenity trees in high risk sites.

