

Plant health issues – at national and site level

Arboricultural Association

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- EU and national legislation
- Action plan driving tree health policy
- Interim FC tree health strategy
- 'Other' important pests and diseases
- Pests that we need to be prepared for
- Guidance about biosecurity

- Common PH regime dating from 1977
- Under review in response to changing risk:
 - The EU has expanded
 - Now extensive globalisation and expansion of trade
 - Climate is changing
- More focus on prevention
- Better risk targeting
- More solidarity (from MS to more joint action)

- EU changes are adopted in national legislation
- Plant health is devolved but regulated by GB orders (as agreed with devolved administrations)
- Plant Health Act 1967
- Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005
- The UK may introduce national legislation if a specific pest isn't controlled effectively through EU legislation

- Key stakeholders are contributing to high-level action plan for tree health and plant biosecurity
- The plan is jointly lead by Defra and the Forestry Commission
- Action plan centres around 4 themes:
 - Protecting the UK – control of imports
 - Practical actions
 - Public and stakeholder engagement
 - Research opportunities and priorities

- Protecting Forests and Woodland trees against pests (and diseases)
- Focus is the impact of pests on woodland environment, trees and wood-using trade
- Risk factors that influence the strategy:
 - Globalisation and associated trade
 - Climate change
 - Threats to urban trees

- Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker (*Pseudomonas syringae*)
- Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*)
- Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)
- Acute oak decline (causal agent unknown)
- Great spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*)

- Citrus Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*)
- Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)
- Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*)
- Ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*)
- Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)
- Bronze birch borer (*Agrilus anxius*)
- Spruce budworm (*Choristoneura occidentalis*)
- 8-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*)

- Oversees the delivery of the Tree Health Strategy
- Includes representation from all parts of the FC, devolved administrations, forest industry, timber trade and the **Arboricultural Association**
- Will prepare guidance on biosecurity measures for the different sectors

- Biosecurity measures are the precautionary steps taken to reduce the risk of transmission of harmful organisms
- Measures must address the 'movement pathways' for organisms
- Good biosecurity practice is a way of working that minimises the risk of contamination and the spread of pests and invasive plants
- The level of biosecurity control must reflect the level of risk of spreading pests between different locations
- We are setting a good example by adopting measures that are highly visible to others

1. Evaluate the risk

Is a tree pest is known or suspected to be present, and is there is a risk of spreading the pest further?

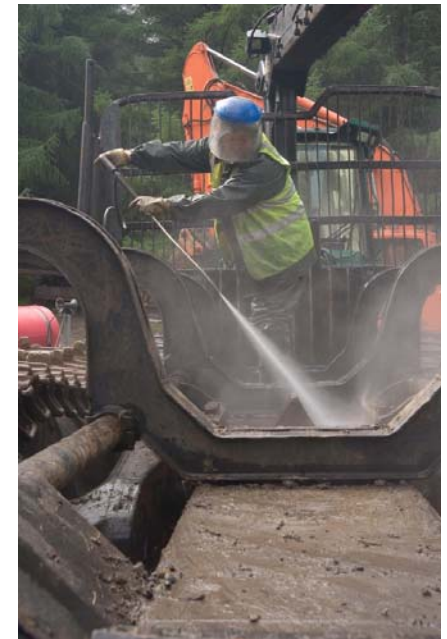


2. Avoid unnecessary contact

Conduct site visits in a manner that avoids potential contact with pests or infected material. Plan to visit low risk sites before going on to those with higher risk.



Extra precautions may be necessary if you handle plants or trees, soil or other material that is known or suspected to be infected.



Disposal of residues may transmit pests so this will normally be prescribed for sites under statutory control (e.g. movement to licensed premises or destruction on site)



- We already live with many endemic or naturalised pests and have learned how to mitigate their impact
- Trees will be exposed to many challenging events during their long life-span
- Catastrophic events have happened previously and the forestry sector has shown great resilience in dealing with them and moving on
- We need to anticipate change and adapt our practices to deal with emerging threats
- Adopting biosecurity measures that are highly visible will show that we take our responsibilities seriously