



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

Report suspected cases of Ramorum disease in new areas promptly to:

plant_health_england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
or 0117 372 1070

If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print or in another language, please contact:

The Diversity Team
Forestry Commission
Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh EH12 7AT

Tel: 0131 314 6151
E-mail: diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

For all other enquiries contact:
Tel: 0845 367 3787
E-mail: enquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

forestry.gov.uk

Published by:
Forestry Commission England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1EJ

0117 906 6000
enquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
www.pefc.org



Printed on FSC certified paper. Please recycle after use.

© Crown Copyright 2013

1126/Cumbria/Oct 2013/2500/Absolute.



Ramorum disease of larch trees

and the Public Forest Estate
in Cumbria



forestry.gov.uk/pramorur



Ramorum disease in Cumbria

Larch trees in Cumbria, including the Lake District, are being affected by the destructive Ramorum disease.

Unfortunately the only available treatment is to fell or kill affected trees quickly to prevent the disease spreading.

Here we explain this disease and how and why we are dealing with it on the Public Forest Estate.

- 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 ponticum* 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 affected trees as quickly as possible –before they produce spores and spread the disease to other trees and plants

It may look as though some healthy-looking trees are being cut down. This is because the disease can be present in trees without showing obvious symptoms, and it is important to ensure that all infected trees are felled

Resilient species - Rowan sapling.



The future

We will restock areas that have been felled as soon as possible with a mixture of species to make the next-generation woodland as resilient as possible to pests, disease and the effects of climate change.



Environmental impacts

We fully understand and share concerns about the potential effects of large-scale tree felling on the environment and landscape

We are liaising with a wide range of stakeholders and partners about how the Public Forest Estate might 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

Area of felling within infected larch forest.

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 larch timber.



Larch trees cover nearly 3200 hectares, 5.5% of total forest area in Cumbria. The Forestry Commission's Public Forest Estate manages just over 40% of this larch.