



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Forest Health Overview



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Forestry Inspector, DAFM



Society of Irish Foresters Western Field Day, September 20th 2024

Forestry Inspectorate - Forest Health Section



- Introduction, legislative background
- What we do
 - Import controls
 - Surveys and outbreak management
 - Export certification
 - Plant passport authorisations
 - National ISPM 15 standard for export of wood packaging
 - Represent Ireland at international regulatory and policy forums – e.g. SCoPAFF



Forestry Inspectorate - Forest Health Section



The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is Ireland's national plant protection organisation (NPPO).

Forest Health Section of the Forestry Inspectorate of DAFM is responsible for forestry aspects of the EU Plant Health Regulation (2016/2031) and the related Official Controls Regulation (2017/625)

- increased responsibilities in recent years
 - New EU plant health regime and Brexit

Resources

Forestry Inspectorate - Forest Health Section



Healthy, resilient and vigorous forests

Ireland's forest health status overall remains relatively good despite issues in recent years.

Protected Zone within EU for 14 forestry harmful organisms.

However there have been serious problems in recent years...





Hymenoscyphus fraxineus - ash dieback disease



First detected in 2012

Phytophthora ramorum in Japanese larch

First detected in Japanese larch
in 2010



Phytophthora ramorum in Japanese larch



In December 2023 the Department confirmed the finding in Co. Clare of a non-European bark beetle *Pseudips mexicanus*



Photos: Robyn Earl, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland



The Monterey pine engraver (length 3.6 - 5 mm)



Some other examples of recently detected pests in Ireland:

Ash sawfly (first confirmed 2021)
Not regulated



Dothistroma needle blight in pine
(first confirmed 2016)
Regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP)





Some other examples of recently detected pests in Ireland:

Fireblight
(First detected in 1986)
PZ pest



Oak processionary moth
(2023 outbreak in Dublin)
PZ pest

Horticulture and Plant Health Division
lead on these two pests.



Prevention

- Horizon Scanning
- Risk Identification & Assessment

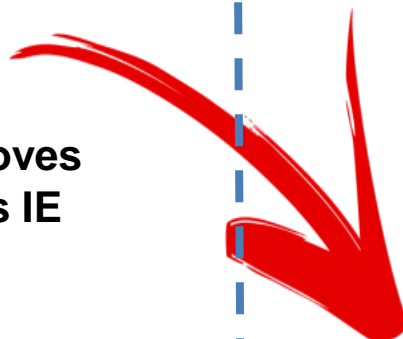
**Prevention
Detection
Control**

Detection

- Inspection, Surveillance, Monitoring Control
- Eradication,
- Containment
- Resilience
- Adaptation



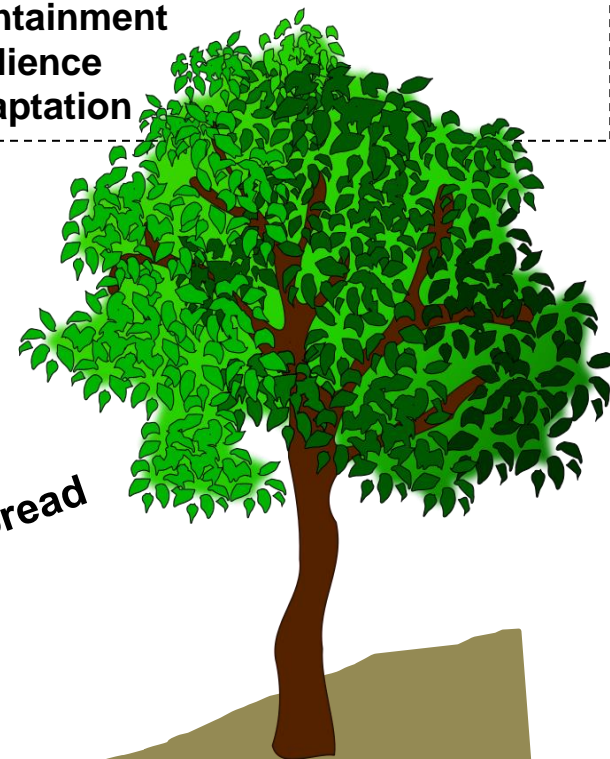
Pest moves towards IE



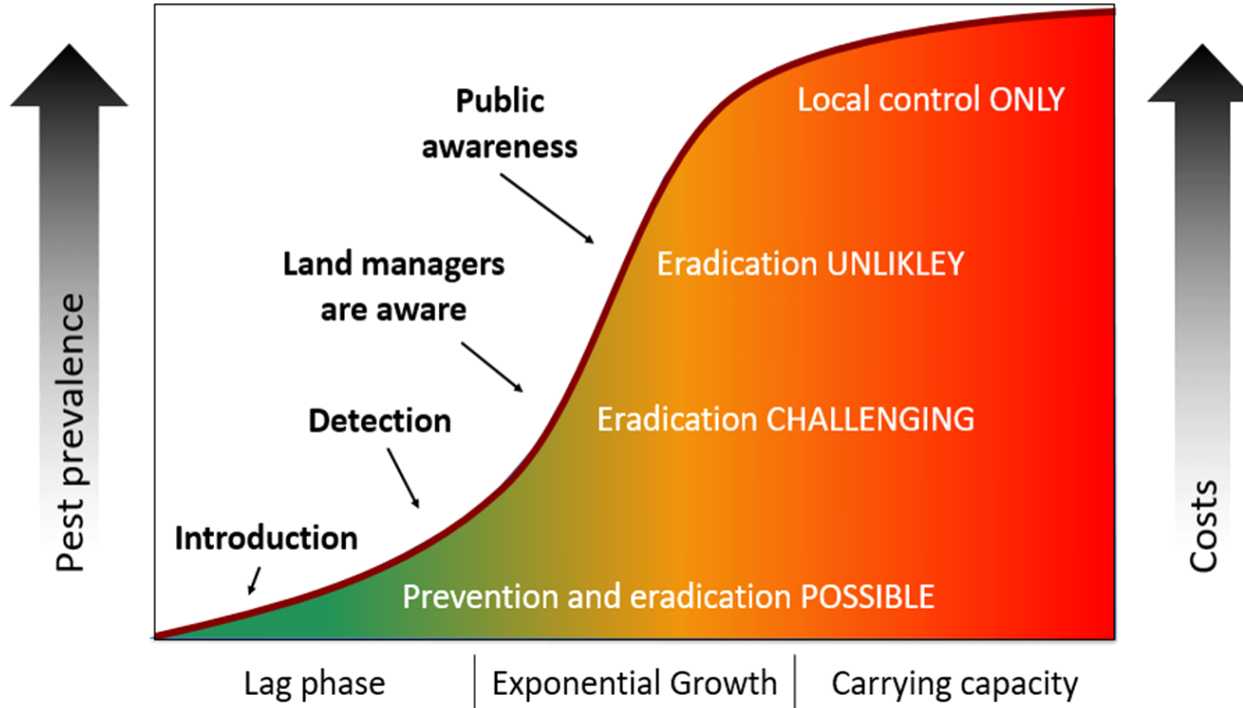
Entry



Spread



Invasion curve



From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (wildlife.ca.gov)

Source: EFSA - derived from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (wildlife.ca.gov)

New Plant Health and Official Controls Regulations

Effective since 14th December 2019



- Increased focus on risk
- Faster decision making and increased collaboration between MS
- Horizon scanning for new pests, contingency planning for specific pests
- Identification of Union priority pests - Co-funded surveys
- Wood packaging and ISPM 15 for export included
- Plant passporting



Import controls



Department established an Import Controls Operations Division to deal with imports since January 1st 2021

Via Border Control Posts (BCPs) at Dublin Port, Dublin Airport and Rosslare Europort

We retain operational responsibility for other Points of entry: Cork Port (containerised products) & Waterford Port

14 unmanned / remotely serviced BCPs for bulk shipments of wood products

Greenore	Drogheda	Dundalk
Wicklow	Arklow	New Ross
Youghal	Foynes	Limerick
Galway	Sligo	Killybegs
Rushbrooke	Passage West	

Plus imports policy - SCoPAFF, regulatory updates.

Import controls – regulated sawn wood



Wood imports – logs, poles



Wood imports – wood chip



Bulk shipments





Log imports –
coniferous wood from
pest free area (PFA)
in Scotland.



Impacts of Brexit.

***Log imports from the PFA
are currently paused***



Wood imports - firewood



Wood packaging material – import controls to ensure compliance with ISPM No. 15





Requirement applies to all wood packaging (pallets, crates, boxes, dunnage) from third countries.
Brexit impact



Survey work includes:

Annual **Protected Zone Surveys** for 14 forestry pests

Annual Surveys for **EU Priority Pests**

Multi-annual survey programme for **Union Quarantine Pests**

Other non-regulated pests that are regarded as a potential threat

e.g. *Phytophthora pluvialis*
hemlock looper
beech leaf disease



Annual Surveys:

Approximately 30-35 regulated pests per year across a range of host species in various contexts

e.g. In 2024 we are focussing on bark beetles

Combination of visual surveys, sampling and trapping depending on the pest

In forests, forests nurseries and risk areas e.g. ports and importers' premises



Summary of 2023 forest health surveys

Pest by category: EU Priority Pests		Number of survey sites	Number of findings
<i>Agilus anxius</i>	Bronze birch borer	35	0
<i>Agilus planipennis</i>	Emerald ash borer	31	0
<i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	Pinewood nematode	38	0
<i>Dendrolimus sibiricus</i>	Siberian silk moth	198	0
<i>Anoplophora chinensis</i>	Citrus longhorn beetle	20	0
<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Asian longhorn beetle	20	0
<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Red necked longhorn beetle	10	0

Published in Ireland Annual Forest Sector Statistics
[gov.ie - Forest Statistics and Mapping \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Summary of 2023 forest health surveys

Pest by category: Union Quarantine Pests		Number of survey sites	Number of findings
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (non-EU isolates)		34	0
<i>Monochamus</i> spp. (non-European)		5	0
<i>Pissodes strobi</i>	Sitka spruce weevil	14	0
<i>Fusarium circinatum</i>		56	0
<i>Scolytidae</i> spp. (non-European)		220	13*
<i>Guignardia laricina</i>	Shoot blight of European larch	17	0
<i>Mycodiella laricis-leptolepidis</i>	Shoot blight of Japanese larch	12	0
<i>Bretziella fagacearum</i>		31	0
<i>Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus</i>		31	0
<i>Pseudopityophthorus pruinosus</i>		31	0
<i>Arrhenodes minutus</i>		31	0
<i>Sphaerulina musiva</i>		9	0
<i>Melampsora medusae</i> f. sp. <i>Tremuloidis</i>		9	0
<i>Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato</i>		3	0

* Non-European bark beetle *Pseudips mexicanus* detected in thirteen samples (93 individuals in total)

Published in Ireland Annual Forest Sector Statistics
[gov.ie - Forest Statistics and Mapping \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Summary of 2023 forest health surveys

Pest by category: Protected Zone Pests		Number of survey sites	Number of findings
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	Small spruce bark beetle	75	0
<i>Ips cembrae</i>	Large larch bark beetle	75	0
<i>Ips duplicatus</i>	Northern bark beetle	75	0
<i>Ips sexdentatus</i>	Six-toothed bark beetle	75	0
<i>Ips typographus</i>	Eight-toothed spruce bark beetle	75	0
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	Great spruce bark beetle	75	0
<i>Cephalcia lariciphila</i>	Larch sawfly	32	0
<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	Chestnut blight	17	0
<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i>	Oriental chestnut gall wasp	17	0
<i>Entoleuca mammata</i>	Poplar canker	9	0
<i>Gilpinia hercyniae</i>	Spruce sawfly	72	0
<i>Gremmeniella abietina</i>	Brunchorstia disease of pine	79	0
<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	Pine processionary moth	54	0
<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	Oak processionary moth	28	0

Published in Ireland Annual Forest Sector Statistics
[gov.ie - Forest Statistics and Mapping \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Summary of 2023 forest health surveys

Pest by category: Emerging pests	Number of survey sites	Number of findings
<i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i>	45	0
<i>Lambdina fiscellaria</i> Hemlock looper	77	0
<i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i> Spruce wood engraver	75	0
<i>Litylenchus crenatae mccannii</i> Beech leaf disease	15	0
<i>Corythuca arcuata</i> Oak lace bug	31	0
<i>Toumeyella parvicornis</i> Pine tortoise scale	53	0

Published in Ireland Annual Forest Sector Statistics
gov.ie - [Forest Statistics and Mapping \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Surveys include:
PZ harmful organisms e.g. bark beetles including *Ips typographus*, *Dendroctonus micans*



Surveys include: Union Quarantine Pest and Priority Pests





Agrilus planipennis Emerald Ash Borer – (EU priority pest)



Agrilus planipennis (AGRLPL) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Adult 10-13mm

Emerald Ash Borer –
“D” shaped exit hole
(3.2mm)



5449376





Forest nursery survey

Bucket trap for OPM



Aerial surveys





Export Certification

GB market is of huge importance to Irish sawmills

Phytosanitary certificate requirement now in lieu of plant passporting as a result of Brexit

Use of Department's
bespoke Export
Certification
System (ECS)





ISPM No. 15 *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*

DAFM with NSAI has responsibility for overseeing ISPM No. 15 in Ireland for *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade.*



Applies to wood packaging used to transport goods of all kinds for exports to third countries

ISPM No. 15 scheme
requires Official National
Registration under
2016/2031

A treatment (usually HT).

A mark on the WPM to
indicated it has been
treated.

**ISPM No. 15 scheme does
not apply to intra-EU
trade.**



International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

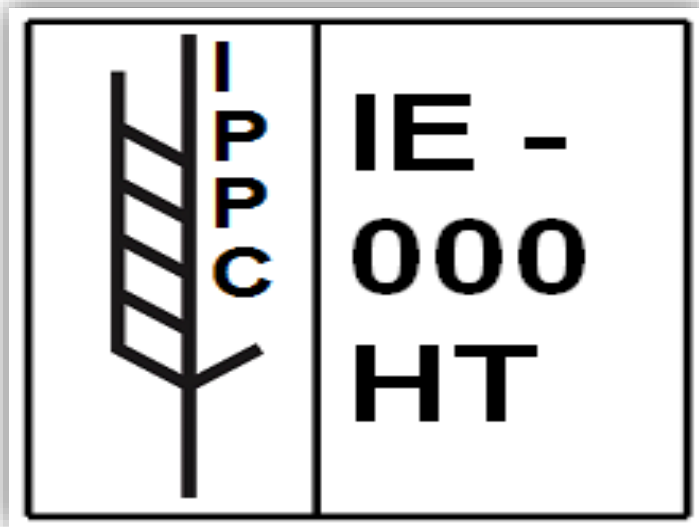
ISPM 15

ENG

Regulation of wood
packaging material in
international trade



ISPM No. 15 *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*



Plant passport authorisations – forestry products



- Registration of professional operators
- Increased responsibility of professional operators – reporting and record keeping
- Authorisation of professional operators who need to issue plant passports
- Understanding of plant health requirements, knowledge of harmful organisms, carrying out plant health checks.
- Training



Plant passport authorisations – wood products

Coniferous Roundwood Movement – a Plant Passport is required



Farm Forest Owners do not have a requirement to register if engaging with a Registered Professional Operator (e.g. a registered forester) to carry out such activities on their behalf.



Plant passport authorisations – wood products

Sawn coniferous wood if not bark-free

Coniferous firewood if not bark-free

-a Plant Passport is Required





Plant passport authorisations

Technical Guidance Document for Forestry Professional Operators



Three sections providing information for:

- All Forestry Operators
- Forestry Operators who need to be registered
- Forestry Operators who need to be Authorised.

Available at: gov.ie - Forest Health (www.gov.ie)



Plant passport authorisations

Competency assessment for forestry operators who need to be authorised to issue plant passports.

Annual official controls.





Plant passport authorisations

As a forestry professional:

Do you need to **register** for plant health?

Do you need to become **authorised** to issue plant passports?

- Review your obligations:

[gov.ie - Forest Health \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

- Contact:

forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie



Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

Have a look at our **Forest Health** web page on www.gov.ie

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/>

Includes Trader Notices and Forest Health Newsletter

Forest Health News
May 2024

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Welcome to Forest Health News. Here you will find the latest news and information relating to forest and tree health issues and developments internationally at European level and nationally in order to create awareness and provide stakeholders with the very latest information. Here we make use of international and national information and expertise including the Department's own Pest Risk Analysis team.

OUTBREAKS & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Monterey Pine Engraver (*Pseudips mexicanus*)

On 12th December 2023 the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine announced a finding of a non-European bark beetle *Pseudips mexicanus* commonly known as the Monterey Pine Engraver. As part of the Department's ongoing national surveys *P. mexicanus* were found in seven traps in forest locations in a confined area in Co. Clare.

Trader Notices

Trader Notices 2024

PDF

TN FH-02/2024 FH Registration Update

[Download](#)

[View](#)

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

28th March 2024

TRADER NOTICE FH No. 2 of 2024

To: All registered professional forestry operators

Subject: Updates to the Official Register of Professional Operators

In accordance with Article 66(5) of Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, Professional Operators **must notify** this Department of any change to the details of their registration on the Official Register of Professional Operators. There are two updates required:



Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

DAFM Pest Risk Analysis Unit Pest Fact Sheets:



Pest Characteristics



Pest Characteristics

Plant Pest Factsheets can be found at:

www.gov.ie - Pest Risk Analysis Unit – Plant Pest Factsheets (www.gov.ie)



Pest Characteristics



Stakeholder Engagement and Communications



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DAFM Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy 2020-2025

- Forest Health Stakeholder engagement group has met twice this year to date

Consultation on bark beetle contingency plans



Stakeholder Engagement and Communications



- 2nd SIF Field Day
- Bark beetle Information Day
for forest owners Co. Clare (April)
- Information Day for Irish Christmas
Tree Growers Association (August)
- Don't Risk It campaign



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020





Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

- International Day of Plant Health Seminar – Trade & Import Controls (May)
- Bloom in the Park 2024 – Clean your boots (June)



Healthy Plants **Healthy Planet**

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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Clean Your Boots and Bike!

Before and after you take a walk in the forest, woodland or park, clean your boots, your bike or buggy wheels of soil and plant material to help stop the spread of plant pests and diseases

PROTECT OUR FOREST HEALTH

KEEP THIS BEETLE OUT

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) will kill trees in Irish forests if introduced here. It is widespread in mainland Europe, and has recently been found for the first time in England.

IT MUST BE KEPT OUT

Importation of untreated conifer wood with bark attached is prohibited from all areas overseas except officially recognised Pest Free Areas.

If found or suspected please contact: **Forest Health Section**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine
3 West Agriculture House
Kildare St. Dublin 2, D02 WK12
forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie
www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service

Cad a dhéanfimid feasta gan adhmaid



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Thank you

