



Don't give
pests and
diseases
an easy ride



Think kit

Scrape, brush or knock soil and debris from your boots and clothing before leaving any site. Make a clean start each day.

Clean and disinfect chainsaws and other cutting tools as part of routine maintenance. Clean machinery regularly to avoid spreading material to new areas.



Think trees

Source plants responsibly, monitor for signs of ill health, and report suspect trees to the Forestry Commission with Tree Alert. forestry.gov.uk/trealert



Think transport

Brush or knock off any build-up of soil and debris on vehicles and machinery, including cabs and footwells, before leaving any site. Use proper off-site wash-down facilities regularly.

Human activity is a key factor in the spread of pests and diseases, being able to move them faster and over longer distances than natural means of spread can.

People working in forestry are at high risk of spreading pests and diseases. We frequently encounter infected material, work at multiple sites, and transport tools and material that can carry pests and diseases. We are also ideally placed to spot outbreaks early, and taking action at the right time can minimise the impact.

We can reduce the spread of pests and diseases by undertaking basic biosecurity day to day to minimise the amount of soil, water and plant material we carry between sites. This can also help to maximise the success of control measures.



For higher risk situations...

Good biosecurity is always important, but there are cases where you might need to be more rigorous, such as when:

- there's a disease or pest present; or
- there's a Plant Health Notice in place.

In these cases, follow specialist guidance, or visit forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity

If you work with infected material:

- keep it separate from other brush; and
- do not use it for mulch, firewood or other forestry products.

Do not remove infected material from site unless you have a 'movement licence'. Infected material without a licence should be kept separate from other wood products until it can be disposed of.

Dispose of infected material by deep burial or incineration, either on site or at a licensed handling facility.

- Many of our trees are under threat from pests and diseases.

Key contacts and resources

Stay up to date:
forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases
and follow @treepestnews on Twitter

Tell us if you spot any ill health in trees:
forestry.gov.uk/trealert

Learn more from our e-learning package:
forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity

Forestry Commission
0300 067 4321
tree_health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Institute of Chartered Foresters
charteredforesters.org/tree-health-resources

Time to act

In 2014/15 at least 300ha of woodland in England were felled to slow the spread of a pest or disease. A significant increase in the range of non-native pests and diseases in the UK over the past 15 years means that our woods and forests need greater protection.

(Forestry Commission, 2015)

Clean boots, clean forests

A study in a *Phytophthora* control zone found that 30% of boots sampled contained infected organic material. *Phytophthora* can survive for more than a year in organic material, increasing the chance of it becoming established elsewhere if the material is moved. We therefore recommend cleaning boots and vehicles, because this has been shown to help minimise the number of infected trees at *Phytophthora* sites.

(Goheen et al., 2012; Pau'Uvale et al., 2005; Webber and Rose, 2007)

Think trees, think source

A sample of 732 nurseries in 18 European countries found that 91.5% had at least one species of *Phytophthora*. Appropriate planning and careful sourcing can minimise the amount of infected stock and ensure that only healthy trees are planted.

(Jung et al., 2015)

The Pest and Disease Cycle

