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We know that many people rely on our services so throughout the pandemic we have continued our normal [operational work](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=a1d20851cd&e=2efec6b028) as far as it is safe to do so. This includes some priority tree pest and disease activity. For more information, visit our [website.](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=37bbf5fec2&e=2efec6b028) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **News** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **New legislation to address the plant health threat posed by Xylella**  The Government has announced plans to address the plant health threat posed by Xylella, a key step for setting plant health legislation tailored to risks in Great Britain.   A new [S](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=2426c8cdab&e=2efec6b028)[tatutory Instrument](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=f1e5bad60b&e=2efec6b028)will come into force next month to introduce stricter measures against Xylella fastidiosa (Xylella) - a bacterium which causes disease in a wide range of commercially grown plants such as grapevine, citrus, olive and several species of broadleaved trees grown in Great Britain. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**More on Xylella**](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=27cf563a3f&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Climate mapping for future forests**  Global temperatures could rise to 4 degrees above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Forest Research has created a climate matching tool to help practitioners track changes over time to help inform management decisions. This tool will allow practitioners to consider better suited material from climates the UK may experience in the future. Exploring regions with similar temperature regimes and rainfall levels to England’s future climate could help us to plant forests for both current and future climates. For more information, visit [http://climatematch.org.uk](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=399169c6f4&e=2efec6b028)[.](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=40bf86ef72&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Help shape future tree health policy**  If you manage trees in England, whether in an urban or rural setting and at any scale, from large woodlands through to individual trees, the Sylva Foundation want to hear your views on a range of potential tree health policies and interventions. This is a chance for you to help shape future support from government.   The results of this survey, with other research outputs, will feed into the development of a Tree Health scheme, as part of the government’s [Agricultural Transition Plan](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=da34ca9931&e=2efec6b028) published on 30 November 2020.   The survey focusses on 4 ‘host’ tree species at grave risk of attack by pests or pathogens: ash, larch, spruce, and sweet chestnut. For each of the species, the Sylva Foundation want you to tell them what blend of regulation, financial support, and advice would deliver the best outcomes. In your response they encourage you to choose any combination of tree species that is relevant to you.   [The Tree Health Policy Survey](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=8246633061&e=2efec6b028) launches on 15 February and will remain open for two weeks until 1 March. | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Trade in wood or wood products?**  The law has changed which means you may have to be registered and authorised with the Forestry Commission to continue moving wood and wood products within the UK and to the EU. The measures have been introduced to improve the protection against tree pests and diseases as part of the EU Plant Health Regulation. To find out more, visit [our website.](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=48adcda4e1&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Import and export resources**](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=a1efadd083&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Creating resilient woodlands**  The Forestry Commission has compiled its climate change resources for landowners, land managers and local authorities on [GOV.UK.](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=e03cce99dd&e=2efec6b028) There you will find practical advice on creating and managing resilient woodlands for a changing climate. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **In-depth** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Phytophthora ramorum: 2020 surveillance and observations in England**  Weather conditions in 2019 were ideal for *Phytophora ramorum* in England, which contributed to an increase in disease spread in 2020. Findings were made in new geographical areas including the Peak District and the East Midlands, where some areas experienced severe larch mortality. This correlates with the significant rainfall experienced in this area during the second half of 2019. In addition, high levels of larch infection and mortality were observed in north-west England.  New findings were also made in larch close to the Welsh border in the West Midlands and Forest of Dean. Observations of infection continued to be well distributed across the south-west of England, whilst limited spread was observed in the south-east.  In total, surveillance in 2020 identified over 280 woodland sites with infection present or suspected, with over 1000 hectares affected. Statutory Plant Health Notices are being issued which require affected owners to fell infected trees.  Larch infection correlated with current and historic infection in *Rhododendron ponticum*, which continues to be an important *P. ramorum* host. Likewise, *P. ramorum* was recorded as infecting bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) on a small number of sites. There were also occasional *Phytophthora kernoviae* findings in *R. ponticum* in south-west England which were identified during *P. ramorum*surveys.  Initiation of the 2020 aerial survey programme was delayed, allowing for modifications to aircraft and operating procedures to meet coronavirus social-distancing requirements. However, by September 2020, 21 adapted survey flights still managed to monitor 34,806 hectares of larch.  Due to the increased surveillance workload, no dedicated survey flights targeting sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) woodland were undertaken in 2020. However, a small number of infections in sweet chestnut were identified during larch-focused survey activity, particularly in the south-west but also in increasing numbers in the north and midlands. Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHNs) are being issued to ensure that affected trees are felled.    Other observations during the survey programme included a continuation of the increase in larch dieback due to large larch bark beetle (*Ips cembrae*). Prolonged droughts and warm summers in recent years may have contributed to this increase. A small number of larch sites were identified where both *I. cembrae* and *P. ramorum*were found. We plan to investigate the possibility of any interaction between these two pests in the coming months.  For more information on *Phytophthora ramorum*, please see[Forest Research’s webpages.](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=a5d98e6537&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Find out more about how you can reduce the spread of tree pests and diseases on GOV.UK**](https://www.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=a82ece4c5a&e=2efec6b028) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |