



## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis

Views are invited on a Rapid Pest Risk Assessment for *C. fraxinea*. The risk assessment has been drafted by plant disease scientists at the Forestry Commission's Forest Research agency. It assesses the risks to the United Kingdom's ash trees, the feasibility and practicality of eradicating the outbreaks which have been found, and measures to prevent more outbreaks occurring.

The Forestry Commission and the Food & Environment Research Agency (Fera) are now inviting comments and suggestions on the assessment, and on options for a control strategy. If an eradication strategy is adopted, the risk assessment will be used as evidence to support a case for national legislation to strengthen the UK's protection from accidental introductions of *C. fraxinea*. Information on the consultation can be found at [www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/consultations/index.cfm](http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/consultations/index.cfm)

## Plant Health Notices

Owners of any ash plants found to be infected will be served Plant Health Notices requiring them to destroy the plants, either by burning or deep burial on site. All ash plants in a new-planting site will require to be destroyed, regardless of whether some do not have symptoms. This is because experience with other plant diseases shows that we must presume that asymptomatic plants in close proximity to symptomatic plants are almost certainly infected, but are not yet showing symptoms. However, we hope that if all parties act quickly now, few people will be affected by these measures.

## Compensation

Unfortunately we are unable to offer any compensation for plants destroyed in order to comply with a Plant Health Notice. It is felt that the available resources are best used for surveillance and eradication work.

Plants are therefore purchased and planted at buyers' risk, and any questions about recompense would be between the customer and supplier of the plants involved. However, we hope that few people will be put in this position if all parties move quickly now to tackle this disease.

## Timber

The implications for growers of ash for the timber trade would be significant if the disease were to become established in Britain. The timber in infected trees might still be usable for some purposes. However, should it get to the stage where it is infecting mature timber trees, biosecurity measures similar to those applying to larch trees infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* would be required to ensure that the disease is not spread further by timber movement. Again, however, we hope that rapid action now by all parties will avert this scenario.

## Further information

As well as our dedicated web pages about *C. fraxinea* at [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara), there is further information on the EPPO website at [www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Alert\\_List/fungi/Chalara\\_fraxinea.htm](http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Alert_List/fungi/Chalara_fraxinea.htm).

For further help or information, please contact the woodland officer for your area (look under 'Area' offices for England and Wales, and 'Conservancy' offices in Scotland, in the 'Contact Us' area of our website), or contact our Plant Health Service at:

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Forestry Commission  
Silvan House  
231 Corstorphine Road  
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