

Detailed guide: Identify a tree pest or disease: overview

Monitoring tree health and protecting our trees, woods and forests from pests and diseases is an increasingly important part of sustainable tree and forest management. This means you need to be able to identify specific pests and diseases to tackle any obvious problems. Once you know what's affecting your trees, you can find advice on what action to take.

Specific tree pests and diseases

If you know the name of the tree pest or disease affecting your trees, see the Forestry Commission guidance giving detailed information on specific tree pests or diseases known to be present in the UK. You can also find out about those that pose a potential risk to the UK but are not present yet.

Identify by tree species

If you're unsure what's causing the problem, use the alphabetical table below to narrow down the options for the relevant tree species and find out which pests and diseases can affect it.

Once you've found the likely culprit for your tree species, you can read Forestry Commission guidance giving detailed information on that specific pest or disease and how to deal with it.

A

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Alder (<i>Alnus</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, <i>Phytophthora alni</i>
Apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>)	Citrus longhorn beetle
Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer

B

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Beech (<i>Fagus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, Citrus longhorn beetle, <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> , <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
Birch (<i>Betula</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, Citrus longhorn beetle

C

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Cedar (<i>Cedrus</i> species)	Pinewood nematode, Sirococcus blight

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Cherry (<i>Prunus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Citrus trees (<i>Citrus</i> species)	<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>
Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer
Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight
Cypress (<i>Cupressus</i> species)	No significant threats

D

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> , pine-tree lappet moth

E

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	No significant threats
Elm (<i>Ulmus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, Dutch elm disease, elm zig-zag sawfly, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>

F

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	No significant threats

G

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Grand fir (<i>Abies grandis</i>)	No significant threats

H

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	No significant threats
Hazel (<i>Corylus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, horse chestnut leaf miner, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>

J

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	<i>Phytophthora austrocedri</i>

L

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Larch (<i>Larix</i> species)	Phytophthora ramorum, pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth
Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	Phytophthora austrocedrae, Phytophthora lateralis
Lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)	Dothistroma needle blight, pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth

M

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, sweet chestnut blight
Mountain ash or rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle

N

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Narrow-leaved ash (<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer
Noble fir (<i>Abies procera</i>)	No significant threats
Norway spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode

O

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Oak – holm (<i>Quercus ilex</i>)	Sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth, Phytophthora kernoviae
Oak – northern red (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	Xylella fastidiosa
Oak – pedunculate or 'English' (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Acute oak decline, Asian longhorn beetle, sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth, Phytophthora kernoviae, Xylella fastidiosa
Oak – sessile (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	Sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth
Oak – turkey (<i>Quercus cerris</i>)	Phytophthora ramorum
Olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>)	Xylella fastidiosa

P

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Pear (<i>Pyrus</i> species)	Citrus longhorn beetle
Pine – Corsican (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	Dothistroma needle blight

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Pine – lodgepole (Pinus contorta)	Dothistroma needle blight, pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth
Pine – Scots (Pinus sylvestris)	Dothistroma needle blight, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Plane (Platanus species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, Xylella fastidiosa
Plum (Prunus species)	Asian longhorn beetle
Poplar (Populus species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle

R

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Rowan or mountain ash (Sorbus aucuparia)	Asian longhorn beetle

S

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris)	Dothistroma needle blight, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Spruce – Norway (Picea abies)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Spruce – Sitka (Picea sitchensis)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode, Phytophthora ramorum
Sweet chestnut (Castanea sativa)	Sweet chestnut blight, Oriental chestnut gall wasp, Phytophthora ramorum
Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Asian longhorn beetle

W

Tree species	pest or disease names
Western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla)	Sirococcus blight
Western red cedar (Thuja plicata)	Sirococcus blight
Willow (Salix species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle

Y

Tree species	pest or disease name
Yew (Taxus baccata)	Phytophthora lateralis

Note: this list of trees is not exhaustive.

Request a diagnosis

The information in the table above is not exhaustive. You may discover a different pest or disease attacking your trees and you should [report it](#) or

request a diagnosis from Forest Research's [Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service](#). There might be a fee for this service.

[Guidance: Tree health news](#)

Keep up to date with the latest news and views on tree pests and diseases in England by [signing up for Tree health news](#).

[Form: Register to apply for a phytosanitary certificate](#)

When we receive your original signed registration form, we will email you a unique customer reference number and instructions for using the system.

[Detailed guide: Tree health legislation](#)

Relevant plant health forestry legislation is listed below. In many cases, the initial legislation is subsequently updated by amending statutory instruments, which should be consulted as well.

[Plant Health \(Forestry\) Order 2005](#)

Includes

[Unofficial Consolidation January 2018](#)

(PDF, 683KB, 87 pages)

, incorporating amendments:

- [SI 2006 No. 2696](#)
- [SI 2008 No. 644](#)
- [SI 2009 No. 594](#)
- [SI 2009 No. 3020](#)
- [SI 2012 No. 2707](#)

- [SI 2013 No. 2691](#)
- [SI 2014 No. 2420](#)
- [SI 2016 No. 1167](#)
(PDF, 103KB, 20 pages)
- [SI 2017 No. 1178](#)

This order:

- prohibits the landing of specified tree pests, trees and 'relevant material' (defined as wood and bark, soil, growing medium or used forestry machinery)
- lays down the conditions under which other relevant material may be permitted entry
- sets out the protected zones for various pests, and prescribes the conditions for entry into and movement within the zones for relevant material
- prohibits the keeping, storage, sale or release of tree pests
- sets conditions for sending relevant material to other Member States
- sets rules for registration of importers, forestry traders and producers
- sets rules for the issue of plant passports to accompany certain relevant material circulated in trade
- sets out the powers of inspectors to enter premises (other than private dwellings) and to undertake examinations etc, or order remedial action to be taken
- prescribes offences and penalties for failing to comply with the order

The order is the principal instrument in Great Britain implementing the plant health requirements in the European Union in respect of forestry material, as set out in Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

[**The Plant Health \(Forestry\) \(Wood Packaging Material Marking\) Order 2006**](#)

This order formalises the procedures for becoming accredited within the programme in Great Britain. It makes it an offence for any person to apply a mark to wood packaging material without the authority of the Forestry Commission. It also gives inspectors powers to enter premises (other than private dwelling houses) without a warrant where they believe wood packaging material is being fraudulently marked, or is being stored, to:

- seize marking equipment
- require any marks found on wood packaging material present there to be obliterated or removed

The order also prescribes the fees payable on application for a certificate and for renewal of certificates, which will no longer be subject to VAT.

[The Plant Health \(Export Certification\) \(Forestry\) \(Great Britain\) Order 2004](#)

This makes provision for the issue of phytosanitary certificates and re-forwarding phytosanitary certificates for export of relevant material (any tree, wood, isolated bark, soil or growing medium, non-manufactured wood or used forestry machinery) to third countries to satisfy the requirements of those countries' phytosanitary regulations.

[The Dutch Elm Disease \(Local Authorities\) Order 1984](#)

Subsequent amendments include [SI 1988 No. 604](#).

This order sets out the powers available to certain local authorities, as listed in the schedule to the order, to take steps to prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease. Each local authority may exercise the powers only in respect of their own area. Officers (appointed by the local authority) who suspect the presence on any premises of elm trees infected by this disease may, on production of their authority (if so required), enter on any land to inspect trees and to take samples. Where the disease is present the officer may either take action himself, or he may require the owner or occupier to do so, to prevent the spread of the disease by destroying the tree, usually by burning on site. Exceptionally, the officer may authorise the removal of the tree to another place for destruction. The order also prescribes offences and penalties for failing to comply with a notice served.

[Plant Health Act 1967](#)

The primary legislation governing plant health in Great Britain is the Plant Health Act 1967 (c.8). This prescribes the Forestry Commissioners as the "competent authority in Great Britain as regards the protection of forest trees and timber".

The Act empowers the Forestry Commissioners to:

- make orders to prevent the introduction and spread of forestry pests and diseases
- require local authorities to undertake certain work to prevent the spread of specified pests or diseases

It also makes provision for the creation of offences and imposition of fees for certain work.

The Forestry Commissioners are also designated under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (c.68) in relation to measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union in respect of forestry.

European Plant Health Review

The European Union plant health regime was set up to protect the union from harm caused by the introduction and spread of pests and diseases affecting plants, including trees. Although this has largely worked well over the years, a full evaluation was conducted to ensure that it continues to be able to meet its objectives. The evaluation set out a number of options to improve the regime, concluding that the best way forward was to:

- simplify the legislation converting it from a directive to a regulation
- increase prevention by introducing a new category of high-risk plant materials that will require completion of a risk analysis before entry, and by the removal of passenger luggage exemptions for such material
- implement further obligations for surveillance and contingency planning to be introduced

It's expected that these changes will take several years. [Read about current progress.](#)

Press release: Poor record keeping lands East Lothian boss with directorship ban

Paul Gilhooley (48) from Tranent, East Lothian, was the sole director of Paul Gilhooley Consultancy Ltd. The consultancy was incorporated in May 2014, with registered offices in Dublin Street, Edinburgh.

However, the consultancy entered into a difficult trading period and was advised to enter into a Creditor Voluntary Liquidation (CVL) in June 2017, after Paul Gilhooley Consultancy had ceased trading.

In a CVL, insolvency practitioners are appointed to manage the winding up of the company and require full co-operation from the directors. Despite numerous requests, however, Paul Gilhooley failed to deliver any accounting records to the insolvency practitioners.

As a result, the insolvency practitioners could not determine from June 2016 what the consultancy had been doing, the exact reasons for the insolvency or the level of payment taken by Paul Gilhooley out of the company.

The administrators were also unable to verify a significant tax debt of just over £207,000 and could not establish the consultancy's debts, what happened to £14,000 of cash taken from the company's bank account or verify what happened to the consultancy's fixed assets.

On 11 September 2018, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Paul Gilhooley, after he admitted that he failed to ensure Paul Gilhooley Consultancy Ltd maintained, preserved and /or delivered up adequate accounting records.

Effective from 2 October 2018, Paul Gilhooley is now banned for 7 years from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Robert Clarke, Head of Company Investigation at the Insolvency Service said:

Directors have a legal duty to maintain proper accounting records and Paul Gilhooley has paid the price for failing to do that as he be banned for a significant amount of time cannot now carry on in business other than at his own risk.

The Insolvency Service will take action against directors who do not take their obligations seriously and abuse their position of trust

Paul Gilhooley is of Tranent, East Lothian and his date of birth is December 1969

Company Paul Gilhooley Consultancy Ltd (Company Reg no. SC478667).

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: