



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

IPSN NEWSLETTER

September 2023



New members

A warm welcome to our first Korean member and two university-linked gardens in Argentina

[Korea National Arboretum](#)

[Jardín Botánico Gaspar Xuarez SJ](#)

[Jardín Botánico Chacras de Coria](#)



IPSN Small Grants Update

IPSN Small Grants 2022/23: 'Invasion debt in plant collections in Britain and Ireland: a horizon scan'

This project, funded with one of last year's IPSN Small Grants, looked into the potential of plants held in UK botanic collections to become invasive under the changing climate. Its findings reveal the high proportion of Species of Concern held in British collections, as well as the applications for using functional traits and comparing niche models with climate forecasts to estimate plants' invasive potentials. Keep an eye out for access to the full report.

New IPSN Small Grant projects for 2023/24 have been selected

A new set of projects funded by IPSN Small Grants will soon get underway, based on topics put forward by our members in response to our recent call for suggestions. The projects will help further biosecurity capacity and phytosanitary research in botanic gardens both in and beyond the UK. We will bring you an update with regards to the scope of these projects in our next edition of the newsletter.



Resources

Oak, European ash, plane and rose rosette virus posters updated

Four of our poster resources have been spruced up with a cleaner look and clearer symptom information about major pests and pathogens for oak, European ash and plane trees, as well as the rose rosette virus. They are all now available for free [on our website](#), along with the rest of our posters and factsheets.



ePHC forms and guidance updated

The electronic Plant Health Checker (ePHC) form has been updated. This digital version of the IPSN's universal plant health survey form now includes a GPS function which allows a survey location to be automatically pinpointed and plant location to be selected on an individual-by-individual basis. This makes it easier than ever to keep track of which individual plant has been surveyed and to follow its record. The update also includes a greatly expanded list of botanic gardens and arboreta, utilising data from [BGCI Garden Search](#), to allow more institutions from around the world to get involved in our monitoring efforts. To access the newest version of the ePHC form please [follow this link](#) or install the Survey123 app on your mobile or tablet and scan the QR code below:



Guidance for completing the ePHC form has also been updated.

New blog post highlights IPSN's work monitoring the emerald ash borer

A new BGCI blog post, 'IPSN: Holding back a beetle', explores the threat posed by the emerald ash borer to Europe's woodlands, and the importance of the IPSN's efforts to monitor its spread. [Read the article now on the BGCI website.](#)



Projects

ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

Second season of targeted surveillance in Belgium draws to a close

The second survey season of targeted surveillance of beech leaf disease, oak borers, rose rosette virus and tortoise pine scale in key host tree species in Belgium has drawn to a close, with post-spring and post-summer workshops held this quarter. Both workshops provided opportunity for feedback between surveyors, NPPOs and diagnosticians, supporting the exchange of expertise and strengthening key connections in the fight against emerging plant diseases. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Belgium Garden Network and their members next year and into the future.

Kick-start workshop for general surveillance of USFS species in Argentinian partners

A kick-start workshop was held in Buenos Aires on the 11th September to provide information to our Argentinian partner gardens who will be participating in the USFS-funded general surveillance of American-native key host tree species in the country. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the USFS, SENASA and INTA/IMYZA, and covered not only the host species, key pests and diseases, monitoring methods, use of the ePHC app and

other key resources but also included a practical session. We look forward to working with all of our partners in the coming months and help build up knowledge of emerging host-pest interactions in the region.



If you are interested in learning more about these organisms or carrying out your own surveys, please [visit our website](#) and get in touch at lara.salido@bgci.org.

Emerald Ash Borer monitoring ongoing

Emerald ash borer surveys, utilising both careful visual survey and funnel-design lure traps, have been ongoing in a number of institutions in 10 eastern European countries across this spring-summer survey season. With the borer having been detected in western Ukraine in recent years, this year's surveys continue to monitor the spread of this highly invasive priority quarantine pest. We look forward to providing you with an update on these monitoring efforts in our next newsletter.

BeXyl - call for South American gardens to join in

We are looking for South American partners to assist in surveying and sampling in the [BeXyl Project](#), researching *Xylella fastidiosa*. Partners will play a crucial role by surveying their live collections, for the endemic *X. fastidiosa*, to help identify the range of host species and the different strains involved in these disease/host interactions.

If your garden is interested in participating in this initiative, please get in touch at lara.salido@bgci.org so we can provide further information about how to get involved.



Members' News

Call for members' news in future editions

Beginning with this edition of our newsletter, we will be including a section for news submitted by our network members, to provide opportunities for members to share valuable information and keep up to date with each other's activities. If members have news relating to their phytosanitary efforts, notable events or relevant biosecurity concerns which they wish to be included, we ask that they please submit a short paragraph (<200 words) with images to lara.salido@bgci.org.

Botanical Garden Adama Mickiewicza in Poznań at the Baltic Sea Botanical Gardens Network Meeting

Authors: Bartłomiej Meres, Mateusz Sowelo, Justyna Wiland-Szymańska ([Botanical Garden Adama Mickiewicza in Poznań](#))

From the 8th until the 9th of September 2023 a meeting of the Baltic Sea Botanical Gardens Network group was held in Kaunas, Lithuania. The occasion for the gathering was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Botanical Garden of the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and the related International Dahlia Exhibition.

The meeting was attended by representatives of botanic gardens from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. The aim of the meeting was an exchange of ideas and during the meeting, the directors and curators of the Gardens' collection reported on the changes that had taken place in their institutions in recent years. They also presented recent initiatives. The delegation of the Botanical Garden Adama Mickiewicza in Poznań, Bartłomiej Meres and Mateusz Sowelo, discussed the project "Monitoring American forest trees in the Botanical Garden of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań", implemented as part of the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) project and initiated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Urve Sinjarvthe, manager of the Tallinn Botanical Garden, talked about their involvement in the celebration of the "European Green Capital" in the year 2023. Ludmila Vishnevskaa, representative of the National Botanical Garden of Latvia, gave a virtual tour of the new education department. The director of the VMU Botanical Garden, Nerijus Jurkonis, introduced the audience to the history of the garden's Jubilee, its rich collections and varieties of dahlias originating in the Kaunas BG and other nurseries. The meeting contributed to an interesting exchange of information about practices used in individual gardens, as well as to strengthening cooperation between gardens located in the Baltic Sea basin.

More about this event can be read [on the BGCI website](#).



Events update

UPCOMING EVENTS

IPSN UK network meeting in October

This year's annual IPSN UK network meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th of October at [Winterbourne Botanic Garden](#) in Birmingham. We will be delighted if you join us to learn more about our current IPSN projects and activities and take the opportunity to identify and discuss potential initiatives under the new Plant Biosecurity Strategy for GB. An agenda will be made available closer to the time. Please contact lara.salido@bgci.org to express interest in attending.

Also, as part of our partnership with PlantNetwork and Observatree, we are extending a warm invite to the Tree Forum meeting on the 24th October at Birmingham University where there will be a range of talks delving into different aspects of tree resilience and survival, as well as the launch of a new UK initiative: the UK Garden Sentinel Network (UKGSN)! We encourage all members to attend both days as they will provide a chance to not only gain further knowledge but to expand our network links with other members, including PlantNetwork and the Chartered Institute of Horticulture. *Please note: the Tree Forum is now fully booked up.*

IPSN at 10 Seminar

The IPSN is approaching the end of its first decade and celebrations are in order. Keep an eye out for more details!



Do share any information you may have on new and emerging pests and diseases in your area with the IPSN through our listserver/via at lara.salido@bgci.org and keep up-to-date with all IPSN news by following us on Twitter / X [@IPSN_BGCI](#)

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