

IPSN NEWSLETTER



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

»»» December 2024 «««



TOP NEWS!

2024 Annual UK IPSN Network Meeting

As each year, the IPSN UK network held an in-person meeting, which took place in November at the [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh \(RBGE\)](#).

The meeting agenda included updates related to IPSN activities, ongoing research projects, emerging pest risks, and future initiatives. Participants also took part in two tours of the garden's grounds, one of the plant collections and one of the biosecurity facilities.

The meeting focused on fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strategic planning within the wider UK plant health community.



[READ THE MEETING RECAP HERE](#)



➤➤➤ RESOURCES

Pest & Disease Posters

The IPSN, with the support of our diagnostic experts, has made several informative resources on plant pests and diseases available in the past year. These posters provide valuable information, assist in symptom identification and help raise awareness of these organisms.

The posters are [freely accessible HERE](#), and we encourage members to display them in their botanic gardens or arboreta facilities to help information sharing with staff.



Additionally, we have recently developed a new organism alert series to highlight harmful organisms that have been on the increase this year, with background information and key mitigation strategies.

Please help raise awareness by [downloading the alerts HERE](#), printing & sharing within your organisations.

➤➤➤ NEWS

The IPSN team is working on creating a new communication channel to improve knowledge sharing and collaboration among network members and partners. We would greatly appreciate your input to help us better understand your communication preferences as we move forward. If you have 5 minutes to spare, your feedback would be invaluable!

New Social Media Channels



[PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY](#)

Also be sure to follow us on our new Bluesky social media channel.

Find our account here: [@ipsn-bgci.bsky.social](#)



Bluesky

New Pest Report



Plane Lace Bug found in London

In September 2024, the Forestry Commission (UK) confirmed that the plane lace bug (*Corythucha ciliata*) had been identified on plane trees in central London. Though this is not a regulated pest, the public has been advised to remain vigilant and to report any suspected findings via their reporting portal [TreeAlert](#).



[Find the Full Report HERE](#)

Emerald Ash Borer specialist group webinar

On the 5th of December, the EPPO *Agilus planipennis* specialist group hosted their first online webinar.

This event provided a platform for NPPOs from affected and neighboring countries in the EPPO region to share information with interested stakeholders and partners on *A. planipennis* distribution and preparedness for its arrival. With more than 450 participants from 55 countries the meeting demonstrated the high interest and range of expertise within the region and beyond.

EPPO Webinar



[Watch the recording and access the presentation HERE](#)

MEMBERS NEWS



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This quarter, we are excited to highlight a variety of new projects supported by our IPSN small grants, along with useful resources, opportunities for collaboration, and survey requests.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our newest IPSN members

- [Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, US](#)
- [Arboretum Kalmthout, Belgium](#)
- [Teplice Botanical Garden, Czech Republic](#)
- [Chelsea Physic Garden, UK](#)
- [Siit Arboretum Botanical Gardens, Philippines](#)



[Explore here our member's map](#)



Biosecurity Signage and Poster Needs for Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (Survey request)

As part of the IPSN Small Grants, the Tree Health Centre at the Yorkshire Arboretum, aims to create blueprint of posters and signage that support biosecurity best practices. To understand the needs and preferences of botanic gardens and arboreta, you are invited to complete the following survey (6-7 minutes). The resulting resources will be freely available, practical and easy to implement for botanic gardens/arboreta worldwide.



[Please Complete the Survey](#)



Recording and Monitoring Pests & Diseases at your Institutions (Survey request)

The IPSN Small Grants is funding a project to research methods of collecting and recording pest and disease data in living collections in the UK, carried out by two undergraduate students at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. To capture useful and comprehensive data for this project, we would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to fill out a short survey.



[Please Complete the Survey](#)



Plant Biosecurity Resources - Accessible Plant Pest Information for Professional Operators

Access 39 pest-specific datasheets and a prototype webtool for Professional Operators. These tools provide tailored pest information to use when issuing plant passports and support risk assessments for site operations in the UK.



[Access resource](#)



GUEST BLOG POST

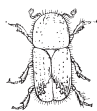
Unlocking the Power of Botanic Gardens: Assessing Pest Pathogen Risks and Protecting Plant Health in Aotearoa New Zealand

Read this fascinating guest blog post by Mark McNeill who is a scientist at New Zealand's AgResearch Ltd institute who are working in partnership the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in Aotearoa.



[Read the New Blog Post](#)





EMERALD ASH BORER MONITORING IN EASTERN EUROPEAN GARDENS

Surveys activities for 2024 have concluded in gardens from Eastern European countries monitoring the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the Ash Dieback (ADB). This year, 11 gardens from 6 countries conducted visual surveys, and 5 gardens in 3 countries set up traps for the EAB.

Although no garden detected the EAB during their monitoring activities, it remains crucial to continue these efforts to enhance our knowledge on the distribution of this pest and support preparedness for potential outbreaks.

We are currently preparing for the in-person meeting, planned for early 2025 (see Events on page 5), as well as the next phase of the project, which aims at expanding the range of activities and number of gardens participating in surveys across Eastern Europe.

GENERAL SURVEILLANCE IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND GARDENS



For the fourth consecutive year, gardens in Australia and New Zealand are conducting surveys of UK host species of interest. The following plant species being monitored for emerging pest/diseases: *Quercus robur*, *Q. petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Rose* spp.

In December, we held the spring survey feedback session, where most monitored species were reported to be in good health after a fairly wet winter and spring. Nevertheless, emerging issues with *Phytophthora* spp and myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) were discussed with the participating gardens and experts as they are of increasing concern and relevance in the region.



UKGSN INITIATIVE: UPDATE & YEAR AHEAD

The UK Garden Sentinel Network (UKGSN) was launched this year in partnership with PlantNetwork and Observatree to monitor and support plant and tree health in UK botanic gardens by engaging volunteers, students, and citizen scientists.

The initiative aims at enhancing scientific research through increased eyes-on-the-ground efforts and recently conducted a tree health pilot focusing on three target pests and diseases. While initial feedback was positive, we hope to boost our engagement in future activities. To help identify priorities for improvement, we invite you to complete a short (5-minute) questionnaire—if you are a garden with active volunteer/student groups your input would be greatly appreciated!



[GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

CANKER STAIN OF PLANE MONITORING IN THE UK



In collaboration with Forest Research, the IPSN is partnering with botanic gardens and arboreta to survey for Canker Stain of Plane (*Ceratocystis platani*). A total of nine organizations have joined this effort, receiving and installing passive spore traps to monitor this organism across gardens in the UK. The samples collected by the gardens are being sent to Forest Research, where experts are currently analysing them.

We are still looking for additional locations and gardens to join this project and expand the reach of the trap network. If your organisation is interested in joining, please fill in this form so we can get in touch about next steps:



[JOIN US!](#)

➤➤➤ BIOSECURITY AND PLANT HEALTH WORKSHOP IN BARBADOS

02 - 07
FEB
2025

We are currently putting together a 3-day workshop on biosecurity and plant health at Andromeda Botanic Gardens in Barbados, organized as part of the CCABG network activities in collaboration with the IPSN. This workshop will bring together local and international experts to build capacity in the region, offering insights into biosecurity best practices, plant health, and invasive species monitoring.

Through a mix of theoretical and practical sessions, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, gain hands-on knowledge, and explore key issues essential for effective plant collection management.

We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with the regional network and excited for this opportunity to support efforts in safeguarding plant health in the Caribbean region!



➤➤➤ EMERALD ASH BORER IN-PERSON MEETING

We are excited to announce that this year's 1-day in-person meeting for gardens involved in Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring in Eastern Europe is currently being organized.

Building on the success of previous years, we look forward to bringing together all our collaborators once again to share experiences and build further expertise in the region. The workshop will include both theoretical and practical sessions, covering ongoing research on the impact of EAB on Fraxinus species in Europe, its distribution, monitoring efforts, and trapping techniques. This year, we are also eager to share new insights on preparedness and mitigation strategies, with valuable contributions from the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) EAB specialist group.

Keep an eye on this space for further information in the new year.

FEB or
MAR
2025

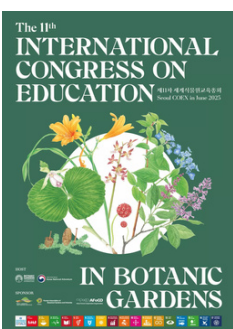
➤➤➤ EUROGARD 2025: 10TH EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS

The theme is "Botanic Gardens in the UK Decade of Ecosystem Resrtoration. Find out more [HERE](#).

29 SEP
- 03 OCT
2025

➤➤➤ INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION IN BOTANIC GARDENS BURSARIES

09-13
JUN
2025



The 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (ICEBG) will be held from June 9 to 13, 2025, in Seoul, South Korea, under the theme "Education for Change: Botanic Gardens' Role in Addressing Global Challenges," focusing on the vital contributions of botanic gardens to education and sustainability amidst global environmental challenges".

If interested, you can apply for funding by following this [LINK](#).



We hope you had a pleasant reading!

The IPSN team wishes everyone a fantastic end to 2024 and a Happy New Year! Thank you for another year of incredible efforts, insights, enthusiasm, and support. We hope 2025 brings exciting new opportunities for collaboration, engagement, and success for all!

SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS, INSIGHTS, OR IDEAS WITH THE NETWORK BY EMAILING: IPSN-L@LISTSERV.BGCI.ORG

YOU CAN ALSO REACH OUT TO OUR TEAM DIRECTLY USING THE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW:

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Keep up to date with all IPSN news by following us:

[@ipsn-bgci.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ipsn-bgci.bsky.social)

[@IPSN_BGCI](https://twitter.com/IPSN_BGCI)

www.bgci.org/our-work/networks/ipsn/

*Remember: Update your BGCI [GardenSearch](#) profile and collection information in [PlantSearch](#).



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