

IPSN NEWSLETTER



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network



JULY 2025



TOP NEWS!

2025 Annual UK IPSN Network Meeting

UK members and partners of the IPSN gathered in June 2025 for the Annual UK IPSN Network Meeting, held in Hyde Park, London, and hosted by The Royal Parks.

The event brought together plant health professionals, researchers, and representatives from botanic gardens/arboreta to share progress on UK-based initiatives, explore new collaborations, and join interactive training sessions.

Participants received updates on IPSN resources, heard about Small Grants Projects, and were introduced to new UK-wide monitoring initiatives. The day ended with a hands-on tour and field session in Hyde Park.



[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



IPSN UPDATES

»»» RESOURCES

Biosecurity posters & signage

We have launched a **new suite of practical biosecurity resources**, developed in collaboration with the **Tree Health Centre at the Yorkshire Arboretum** through the **IPSN Small Grants programme**.

The resource set includes a series of educational and informational posters for public display, that include information on biosecurity policy implementation, key plant health issues, and essential biosecurity guidelines. Additionally, a tailored signposting set for internal use is available for staff workspaces, nurseries, and volunteer areas. These materials provide clear guidance and promote consistent daily best practices, helping to build essential skills and raise awareness in areas such as risk assessment, hygiene, policy implementation, and plant health monitoring.

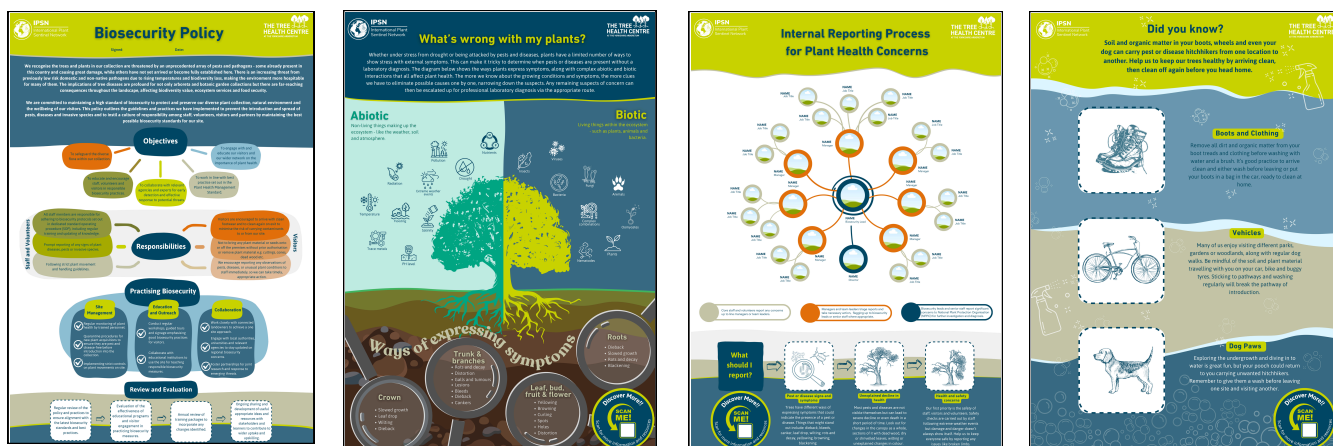
These resources have been designed to be flexible and can be adapted to suit local needs — please [contact us](#) if you want editable versions to adapt to your organisation/site.

We encourage members to display them throughout their sites to reinforce biosecurity awareness and support daily operations.

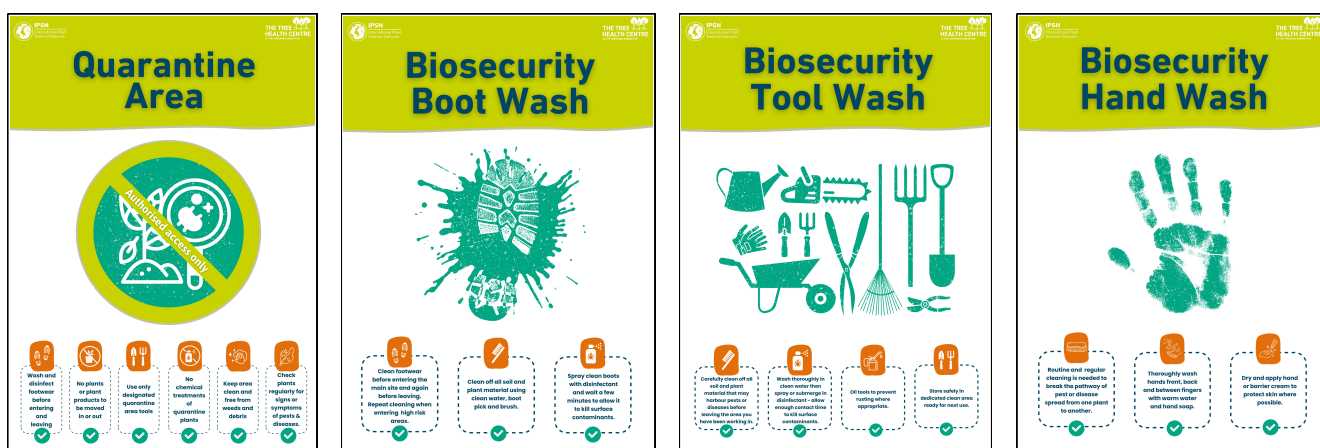


[Access resources here](#)

• Set of Biosecurity Posters



• Set of Biosecurity Signage



»»» RESOURCES

To support accurate and consistent plant health monitoring across institutions, the IPSN—working with international diagnostic experts—has developed a set of practical, **step-by-step sampling and trapping protocols**. These guides provide clear instructions to help staff and volunteers carry out effective **surveillance of priority pests and diseases**, covering essential topics such as symptom identification, inspection techniques, and proper collection and submission of samples and photographs.

Monitoring protocols

Current available protocols include:

- Trapping guide for Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*).
- Sampling protocol for *Xylella fastidiosa*, developed under the EU-funded BeXyl project in collaboration with CSIC (Spain) [currently available in Spanish and Portuguese].
- Sampling protocol for Sooty Bark Disease (*Cryptostroma corticale*), developed in partnership with Forest Research (UK).
- Trapping guide for Canker Stain of Plane (*Ceratocystis platani*), developed in partnership with Forest Research (UK).



[Access protocols here](#)



New Online course

Introduction to Biosecurity for Botanic Gardens and Arboreta

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Biosecurity online course! A **free, entry-level** module designed to provide fundamental knowledge on the key elements of bioscurity for professionals in botanic gardens and arboreta.

Through five key sections this interactive course offers practical guidance to equip participants with the fundamentals to help promote and ensure best biosecurity practices in the management of living plant collections. Covering essential topics such as plant health principles, governance, pathway risk analysis and key biosecurity documentation, this engaging course lays the groundwork for strong, effective biosecurity.



START LEARNING TODAY!



[Click here to access the course](#)

IPSN Small Grants 2025-2026

Call for project proposals for IPSN Small Grants (UK-based)

We are excited to launch this year's IPSN Small Grant Call, offering three grants of £5,000 each, to support short-term projects taking place during 2025-26.



We welcome proposals that use botanic garden/arboretum collections to investigate key plant health and biosecurity challenges from the practitioners' perspective, such as:

- Detection & monitoring of pests & diseases
- Conservation of threatened species from biosecurity threats
- Integration & safeguarding of plant health data
- Public engagement & awareness of plant health/biosecurity

Projects that promote collaboration between multiple institutions and/or engage students/volunteers in research or outreach activities are especially encouraged. Open to any staff or student based at a UK IPSN botanic garden or arboretum.

How to apply: Submit a **1-page concept note** outlining the scope, objectives and methods of your proposed project **by Monday 21st July 2025**.



[Send us your proposal](#)

Call to action: Monitoring Hawthorns, Holm Oak and Canker Stain of Plane in the UK

New initiatives in the UK

The IPSN, in collaboration with Fera, Forest Research and the Tree Council, invites botanic gardens and arboreta across the UK to take part in the monitoring of key pests and diseases affecting key tree species of interest. These are outlined below:

- **Holm Oak Monitoring:** Looking at identifying key pests affecting *Quercus ilex* to establish a baseline for these organisms presence in the UK territory.
- **Hawthorn Sampling:** Focusing on detecting threats such as fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*), rusts, and mosaic viruses impacting *Crataegus* species to determine their resilience to these threats.
- **Canker Stain of Plane:** Aiming at establishing a trapping network using passive spore traps, to help detecting efforts for the arrival of *Ceratocystis platani* in the UK.

Protocols outlining main steps and methods for each of the initiatives **are available!**

If you are based in the UK and would like to get involved, please fill in this form to express your interest and get more information:



[Express your interest!](#)

New IPSN LinkedIn Page

Join us on LinkedIn!

We are excited to announce the launch of the IPSN LinkedIn Page - a new space to share updates, research highlights, partner activities and global plant health news. Follow us to stay connected with the latest developments of our network.

We'll also be launching a dedicated LinkedIn Group in coming weeks, providing a private forum for IPSN members and partners to exchange ideas, ask questions and collaborate across borders. **STAY TUNED!!!!**



[Follow us here!](#)



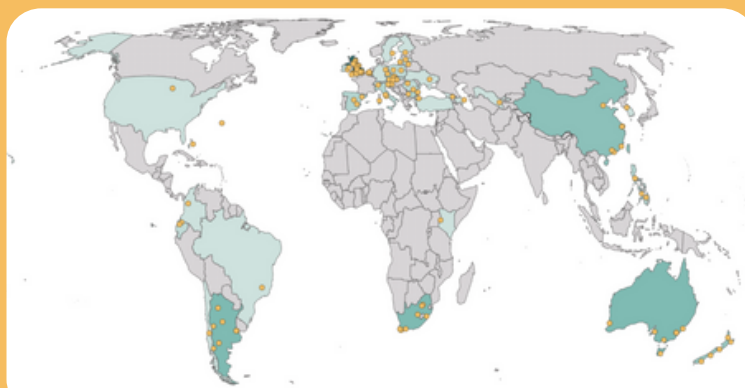
NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest member:

- The Royal Parks, London, United Kingdom



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

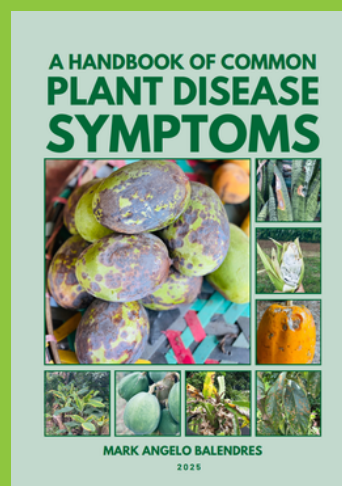


MEMBERS' NEWS

A Handbook of Common Plant Disease Symptoms

Created and shared by Prof. Mark Angelo Balendres, a plant pathologist specialised in tropical plant disease diagnostics and management, this pictorial guide is an essential tool for researchers, gardeners, and farmers aiming to recognise plant disease symptoms accurately. The guide features a wide array of photographs contributed by a global community, depicting the physical effects of various viral, bacterial, and fungal infections on plant parts such as leaves, stems, and fruit.

On the author: Prof. Balendres obtained his PhD in Agricultural Science (Plant Pathology) from the University of Tasmania, Australia. He is a full professor at the Department of Biology, De La Salle University (DLSU) in Manila, Philippines and heads their Plant and Soil Health Research Unit. Contact Prof Balendres: mark.angelo.balendres@dlsu.edu.ph



[Access the guide](#)

PineProtect: Exploring the biocontrol potential of *Esteya* spp against the pinewood nematode

David Pires, a PhD candidate at the National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research in Portugal, presents his research project. The PineProtect project explores the use of *Esteya* fungi as a sustainable biocontrol agent against the pinewood nematode, a significant threat to pine forests worldwide. Watch the video to learn about innovative and eco-friendly solutions for safeguarding plant health.



[Watch the video](#)

Call for members' news

If you have phytosanitary updates, events, resources, or biosecurity concerns to share, send us a brief paragraph with images, and we will include it in the next newsletter.



[Send us your news](#)
(itxaso.quintana@bgci.org)

PROJECT UPDATES



➤➤➤ TARGETED SURVEILLANCE BELGIUM



At the end of May, the kick-off meeting held online with Belgium's gardens marked the launch the 2025 monitoring season.

These targeted surveys focus on the surveillance of emerging pests and diseases on key plant species of interest, including: Oak borer beetles in oak trees, Beech leaf disease and Petrakia leaf spot in beech trees, Rose rosette virus in roses, Pine tortoise scale in pine trees (see Image) and Japanese beetle.

Belgian gardens have already completed their spring surveys, and fortunately, none of the targeted pests or pathogens were detected. We are now preparing to host the post-spring survey workshop, where results will be discussed in collaboration with Fera's (UK) plant health diagnosticians, and the Belgian National Plant Protection Organisation. Throughout July and August, the gardens will continue with their summer surveys.

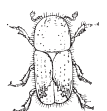
XYLELLA SAMPLING IN CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA <<<



The six botanic gardens in Central and South America participating in the BeXyl project have already received their sampling kits (see Image).

The gardens (based in Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil) have begun sampling plants of European interest to check for the presence of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. The samples will then be analysed at the project's designated laboratories to help determine the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* and identify the strains, if present, and their associated symptomatology.

This information will not only help advance understanding of this regulated organism, but also support gardens assess the health status of their living plant collections and develop outreach materials to promote public awareness about this bacteria.



➤➤➤ EMERALD ASH BORER MONITORING AND TRAPPING



The visual surveillance and trapping season for the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is now underway.

Eleven botanic gardens across six Eastern European countries have now received their traps and lures and set them up in their collections (see Figure), with an additional three institutions undertaking visual inspections for both Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Dieback. These efforts support the monitoring of the spread of these organisms in the continent.

Throughout the European summer, gardens will continue to monitor their traps and carry out visual surveys, with plans to discuss results and outline the next phase of the project at the EuroGard Congress in Rome at the end of September.

»»» BIOSECURITY AND PLANT HEALTH WORKSHOP AT AETFAT CONGRESS IN GHANA

The IPSN, in collaboration with regional partners from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, will be hosting a workshop focused on strengthening biosecurity and plant health monitoring to support sustainable plant conservation in Africa. Experts will discuss surveillance methods, community-centered legislative frameworks, and strategies for enhancing regional cooperation. The event will provide a platform for knowledge exchange and exploring collaborative opportunities to tackle the growing threats from invasive species, pests, and diseases. Stay tuned for more details!

05
August
2025



[Learn more about AETFAT](#)

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

The 10th European Botanic Gardens Congress (Eurogard10) will be hosted at the Botanic Garden of Rome from the 22nd to the 26th of September, 2025. The theme is "Botanic Gardens in the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration". The IPSN will be delivering presentations in a couple of sessions and holding a in-person meeting on Emerald Ash Borer with project participants and other interested stakeholders and partner organisations. Stay tuned for further updates!

22-26
September
2025



[Learn more about Eurogard](#)



EVENTS CATCH UP!

IEFC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY <<<

In April 2025, the IPSN was invited to present at the Annual General Assembly of the European Institute of Planted Forest (IEFC), held in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.

During the seminar, an overview of existing tools for monitoring forest health was shared. The IPSN contributed by presenting a range of plant health monitoring tools, including manuals, guidelines, and informational resources on pests and diseases. The network also expressed its openness to new collaborations and opportunities for shared learning.




[Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION IN BOTANIC GARDENS <<<

The 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, held from June 9–13 in Seoul, Korea, was a resounding success. Hosted by the Korea National Arboretum, Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), it welcomed over 1,600 participants from 51 countries—the largest ICEBG to date.



[Read more](#)



We hope you had a pleasant reading!

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

Updating your GardenSearch profile and uploading your living and seed collections into PlantSearch will facilitate the reciprocal use of our tools, as well as facilitating the identification of gardens with specific plants of interest for IPSN projects.

Please find more information on GardenSearch, and how to update your profile [here](#). More information on PlantSearch can be found [here](#), and access [the guide](#) for information how to upload collection information including explicative videos.

Do share any information you may have on new and emerging pests and diseases, by sending an email to: listserv@listserv.bgci.org

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

X: [@IPSN_BGCI](#)

Bluesky: [@ipsn-bgci.bsky.social](#)

LinkedIn: [International Plant Sentinel Network](#)

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



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