

IPSN NEWSLETTER



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

»» September 2025 ««



TOP NEWS!

Emerald Ash Borer workshop at the Orto Botanico di Roma

As part of the EuroGard10 conference in Rome, we organised a one-day workshop titled: "The Threat of the Emerald Ash Borer to Europe: Monitoring and Mitigation Strategies". The event, generously hosted by the Orto Botanico di Roma, was part of the ongoing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) surveying and trapping project, coordinated by IPSN and funded by DEFRA (UK).

The workshop brought together experts and representatives from botanic gardens across Europe to share insights on policy frameworks, monitoring and trapping techniques, and management strategies. The programme also included a brainstorming and feedback session to discuss next steps discussion and strengthen collaboration across the network. The day concluded with a hands-on trap-setting session and a guided tour of the garden's living collections.



[READ MORE ABOUT THE WORKSHOP](#)



NEWS

AETFAT Congress Biosecurity workshop

Working together to strengthen plant health and biosecurity for sustainable plant conservation.

As part of the AETFAT Congress (2–8 August 2025) in Accra, Ghana, the IPSN co-led a workshop with local partners from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire focused on "Strengthening Biosecurity and Plant Health Monitoring for Sustainable Plant Conservation."

Participants from research institutions, National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), and NGOs working with community groups shared experiences in surveillance, legislation, and nursery management—highlighting both successes and ongoing challenges. A key outcome was the recognition of the need for stronger cross-sector collaboration. Plans are now underway to convene a dedicated session bringing together NPPOs, NGOs, researchers, and community representatives to set priorities and drive collective action for regional plant biosecurity and conservation.

Follow IPSN channels for upcoming updates!



10th European Botanic Gardens Congress, Rome, Italy

At the EuroGard10 Congress (22-27 September 2025) held at FAO, in Rome, the IPSN team gave two presentations during the Policy and Standards session on Thursday afternoon. Presentations shared insights on how the network's initiatives help implement biosecurity and plant health standards in support of Plant Conservation frameworks, and provided an overview of the resources developed to support their implementation through botanic gardens.

The conference also provided an excellent opportunity to connect with IPSN members and partners, learn more about the important work taking place in their botanic gardens, and explore new collaborations to strengthen plant health conservation efforts.

IPSN at EuroGard10

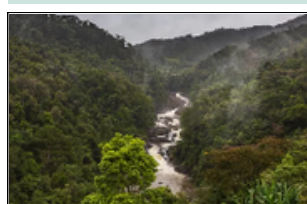


Call for abstracts

Don't forget to submit your abstract: Special Issue in Frontiers in Forests and Global Change!

As part of our ongoing collaboration with colleagues from USDA/MSU, we have a special issue out in Frontiers in Forests and Global Change focused on innovations in plant health monitoring, policy frameworks, climate resilience, public engagement, and collaborative networks using sentinel plants.

If you or your institution is involved in any activity/initiatives related to the above topics, ensure you submit your article abstract before January 2026. For full details on article requirements, deadlines, and submission guidelines see below:



Frontiers in Forests and Global Change
Pests, Pathogens and Invasions



[SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)



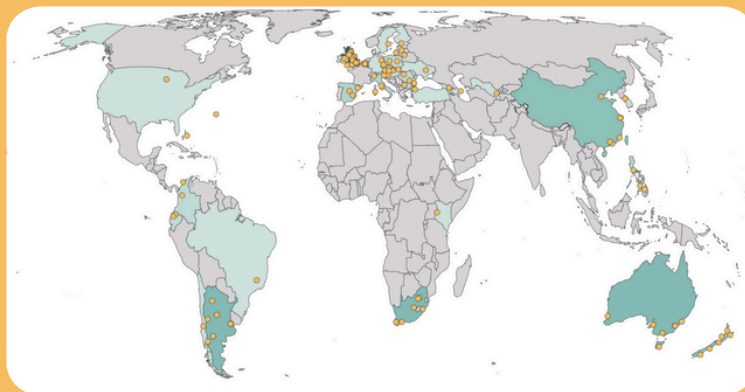
NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members joining the network from:

- Jardín Botánico de Cartagena
"Guillermo Piñeres", Colombia



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



BLOG POSTS FROM MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD

Our guest blog section features insightful articles from our members and partners on plant health and biosecurity—from emerging pests and pathogens to global management efforts. Check them out on the BGCI website!



[ACCESS THE BLOGS SECTION](#)

Share your news and stories from your Garden or Arboretum!

Have a plant health project or garden update to share? We are looking for news and short blog posts from members. To contribute, email us at itxaso.guintana@bgci.org or lara.salido@bgci.org.



NEW BLOG POST - FROM EDINBURGH

Small Grants, Enormous Opportunities: My Journey with the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN)

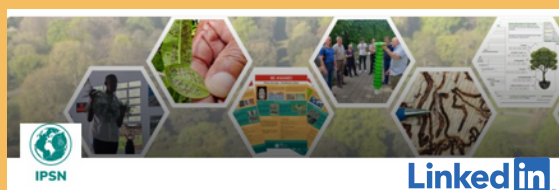
Discover how a simple conversation over coffee sparked James Douglass's inspiring journey from an enthusiastic undergraduate to a mentor and lecturer in horticulture with a passion for plant health. Read his story of growth, research, and the powerful impact of IPSN small grants on his career in plant conservation and biosecurity.



[Read the Blog Post](#)



JOIN US ON LINKEDIN!



[IPSN on LinkedIn](#)

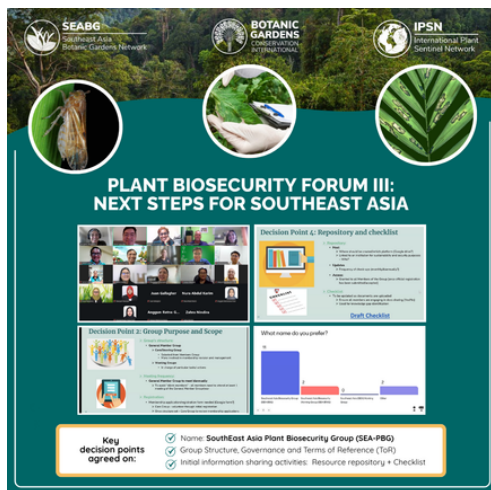
We have recently launched the **IPSN LinkedIn Page** - a new space to share updates, research highlights, partner activities and global plant health news.

We will also be launching a dedicated LinkedIn Group, providing a private forum for IPSN members and partners to exchange ideas, ask questions and collaborate across borders.

Follow us to stay connected with the latest developments of our network!



SOUTHEAST ASIA PLANT BIOSECURITY GROUP (SEA-PBG) ESTABLISHED



In September 2025, the third Southeast Asia Plant Biosecurity Forum, organized by the SEABG Network and IPSN, brought together around 30 participants from five countries to strengthen plant health and biosecurity across the region. A key outcome was the formal **establishment of the Southeast Asia Plant Biosecurity Group (SEA-PBG)**, with an agreed structure, governance, and Terms of Reference.

The SEA-PBG will provide a platform for regional collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and aims at facilitating coordinated action on plant health monitoring and biosecurity to protect plant collections and biodiversity in the region.

Stay connected via the SEABG Facebook page for updates on SEA-PBG activities.



[Read more here](#)

BEXYL PROJECT: XYLELA FASTIDIOSA SAMPLING IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN GARDENS



As part of the BeXyl project — funded by the European Commission to advance understanding of the impact and mitigation strategies of the bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa* — we are collaborating with six botanic gardens in Central and South America: **Brazil**: Instituto Inhotim, **Ecuador**: Jardín Botánico Padre Julio Marrero (Image a,e below), **Colombia**: Jardín Botánico de Cali (Image c,d), Jardín Botánico de Medellín, **Guatemala**: Jardín Botánico CECON-USAC, Orquidario y Arboreto de la Universidad Rafael Landívar (Image b).

Gardens have been collecting and preparing samples from plants of interest from their living collections using a standardised protocols provided by the project. Four of the six gardens have already sent their samples to the diagnostic laboratory at CSIC in Spain, where they will be analysed for the presence of the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria.

Once test results are obtained, they will be shared with participating botanic gardens, for better understanding of their collections' status. Additionally, informational and awareness-raising materials about the project and the impact of *Xylella fastidiosa* will be created and disseminated in the next phase of the project.



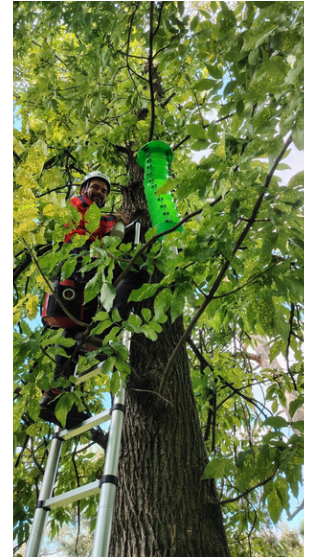
>>> EMERALD ASH BORER & ASH DIEBACK VISUAL SURVEYS AND TRAPPING IN EASTERN EUROPE

In addition to the in-person EuroGard10 workshop in Rome, visual monitoring for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Ash Dieback (ADB) has been ongoing throughout spring and summer 2025 in botanic gardens across Eastern Europe. Participating institutions surveyed ash trees in their collections for signs and symptoms, supporting the IPSN's efforts to track the distribution of these threats.

Trapping for EAB was also carried out as part of the programme, and with efforts concluding in October, gardens are bringing down traps for the season and reporting any *Agrilus* species detected.

With this year's monitoring phase now wrapping up, the project moves into its next stage. Botanic gardens across Eastern Europe are encouraged to get involved, share ideas, and contribute to upcoming activities.

For participation or feedback, please contact the project coordinators: [Lara Salido](#) and [Itxaso Quintana](#).



BELGIUM SUMMER SURVEYS COMPLETED <<<



Another successful year of targeted surveys in Belgium has concluded, focusing on key host plants for UK priority pests and pathogens, including Pine Tortoise Scale in Scots pine, bark beetles in English and sessile oak, Rose Rosette Virus in roses, Beech Leaf Disease in beech, and Japanese Beetle in deciduous hosts.

Results from four participating botanic gardens have been received, with no organisms of concern detected. Findings will now be reviewed with FERA (UK) diagnosticians and the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO). Gardens will also share insights on cultural practices, weather impacts, and other factors affecting their collections, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening regional collaboration to advance plant health monitoring in Belgian botanic gardens.

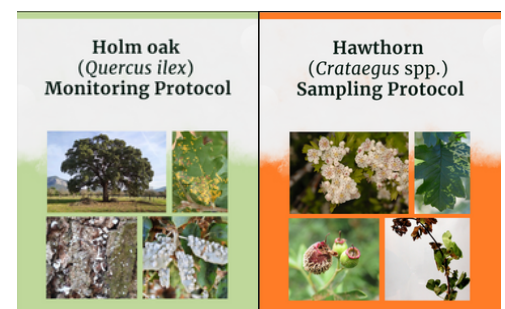


>>> HAWTHORN SAMPLING & HOLM OAK MONITORING INITIATIVES IN THE UK

Since June, UK botanic gardens have joined two new IPSN initiatives in collaboration with Forest Research and FERA respectively: 1) hawthorn sampling for bacterial, fungal, and viral infections, and 2) holm oak monitoring for key pests.

Provided standardised protocols guide symptom assessment, sample collection, and diagnostic photography, helping with efforts to track plant health and support early detection of pests and pathogens in the UK.

UK gardens interested in participating are invited to get in touch.



[Express your interest here](#)

EVENTS

6

»»» BEXYL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - GIRONA, SPAIN

From October 1–3, the 3rd BeXyl General Assembly will bring partners together in Girona, Catalonia (and online), to review the efforts undertaken in tackling *Xylella fastidiosa* and to plan the 2026 schedule. IPSN will highlight the vital contribution of botanic gardens in Central and South America, where living collections are providing critical samples for identification of key bacteria strains in its endemic region. Looking ahead, the IPSN will focus on creating information and awareness resources to support practitioners worldwide—ensuring that botanic gardens remain at the heart of prevention, monitoring, and knowledge-sharing across both endemic and non-endemic regions.

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[LEARN ABOUT THE BEXYL PROJECT](#)

»»» RSB PLANT HEALTH SERIES - EDINBURGH, UK

The IPSN is delighted to have been invited to participate in the upcoming Biology Week Event at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on October 16, 2025. During this special meeting organised by the Royal Society of Biology's Plant Health Series, IPSN will present on the significant achievements of its network over the past decade, highlighting landmark projects, capacity-building work, and the development of a truly global community of botanic gardens, arboreta, and plant health institutions working together to safeguard plant diversity.

16
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[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EVENT](#)

»»» EABRACE WORKSHOP - KRAKOW, POLAND

On October 16–17, 2025, the IPSN will contribute to the EABRACE project workshop in Krakow, which will bring together researchers, practitioners, and NPPO representatives in the Baltic and East European region to strengthen regional collaboration against emerald ash borer (EAB) and ash dieback. This 2-day workshop will feature the latest advances in trapping methodologies and cross-border data sharing. IPSN will showcase insights from over five years of work, highlighting the crucial role of botanic gardens and arboreta in Eastern Europe in supporting surveillance and early detection to safeguard ash trees across the region.

16-17
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[LEARN MORE ABOUT EABRACE](#)

ILLEGAL PLANT TRADE COALITION - Think Twice, Trade Right

BGCI, in coalition with botanic gardens worldwide, has developed a global outreach strategy to address the illegal plant trade.

This issue not only threatens biodiversity and ecosystems but also poses serious biosecurity risks, as illegally traded plants can carry harmful pests and diseases. The coalition's aims include: raising awareness, educating consumers about responsible purchase, supporting enforcement efforts, protecting indigenous cultures.

Visit the website to learn more and find out how you can get involved & Follow BGCI's social media channels to stay updated and join the ongoing awareness campaign.



**ILLEGAL
PLANT TRADE
COALITION**
Think Twice, Trade Right



[LEARN MORE](#)



We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter!

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:

Lara Salido: lara.salido@bgci.org

Itxaso Quintana: itxaso.quintana@bgci.org

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

Website: plantsentinel.org

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-plant-sentinel-network/>

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

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

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



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