

IPSN NEWSLETTER



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network



December 2025



**Wishing our IPSN
community a Merry
Christmas!**

Your dedication, efforts and
enthusiasm in 2025 has
been invaluable.

Here's to a joyful holiday
and an amazing start of
2026!



TOP NEWS!

2025 Emerging Pests

As we close 2025, the IPSN has compiled an overview of key emerging plant diseases observed around the world this year. These emerging threats include recent outbreaks reported in Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean, highlighting the growing importance of international plant health surveillance and information sharing.

Continue to the next page for more information on these emerging organisms and their potential impacts.



[RECAP OF EMERGING DISEASES](#)



EMERGING PESTS

Find below a list of the notable emerging plant health threats reported globally in 2025:

- **Japanese beetle (*Popilia japonica*)**

During 2025 outbreaks have been detected in several European countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, France & Spain).



[More information](#)



- **Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)**

This invasive pest continues its westward spread from Russia and Ukraine. New detections have been reported in Belarus.



[More information](#)



- **Golden mealybug (*Chryseococcus arecae*)**

Since its first detection in 2012, this soil mealybug is spreading across the UK. Regular plant and root checks are recommended to stop its spread.



[More information](#)



- **Pinewood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*)**

This microscopic worm is affecting pines in Europe and Asia. This year an outbreak was detected for the first time in France.



[More information](#)



- **Red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*)**

It is threatening palms in Latin America and the Caribbean. The beetle has been reported in Uruguay, and eradication plans are in process.



[More information](#)



- ***Xylella fastidiosa***

This bacterium has been detected in Argentina and is causing severe damage to olive trees. Its impact is illustrated by the decline of the 400-year-old "abuelo de los olivos argentinos".



[Read the news](#)



IPSN UPDATES

>>> RESOURCES

New resources in progress

IPSN is developing several new resources, ranging from plant health monitoring tools to awareness-raising materials. Stay tuned to our [website](#) and social media channels ([X](#), [BlueSky](#), [LinkedIn](#)) for new resources to be released in the new year:

- **Plant Health Checker for Palms:** A new form to support monitoring general palm health assessments is currently under expert review and will be published in the new year, complementing our [existing PHC forms](#) for conifers, deciduous and non-woody plants.
- **Emerald Ash Borer trapping guidance:** An updated protocol and instructional video, incorporating expert advice, are in development to provide clearer and more complete trapping guidance.
- **Awareness raising for *Xylella fastidiosa*:** As part of the [BeXyl](#) project, we are creating public-facing materials on *Xylella fastidiosa* impacts and biosecurity best practices, designed for botanic gardens.

>>> NEWS

IPSN Small Grants 2025-2026

Small Grants have been awarded:

As every year, three £5,000 grants have been awarded to three UK botanic gardens and arboreta to support projects advancing plant health understanding and best biosecurity practices. This year's projects are:

- “Strengthening Plant Health: Biosecurity Policy Development Framework Using Birmingham Botanical Gardens as a Case Study” by Birmingham Botanic Gardens
- “Assessment and development of monitoring resources to support the assessment of *Cupressus dieback*”, a collaboration between Westornbirt Arboretum-Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest Research
- “Establishing a protocol for determining the presence of *Phytophthora* pathogens in garden soil” by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



[Read more about the projects](#)

IPSN Featured in BGCI GCC Webinar Series

IPSN was featured in the first webinar of BGCI's new Global Conservation Consortium (GCC) webinar series. The session introduced the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN), exploring how GCCs can collaborate to strengthen plant health and biosecurity, and launched the new GCC for Food Plants.

BGCI webinars



[Watch the recording](#)



GCC

Global Conservation
Consortia

The GCCs aim to mobilise a coordinated global network of institutions and experts to develop and implement conservation strategies for priority threatened plant groups.

Learn more and join here:

<https://www.bgci.org/our-work/networks/global-conservation-consortia-gcc/>



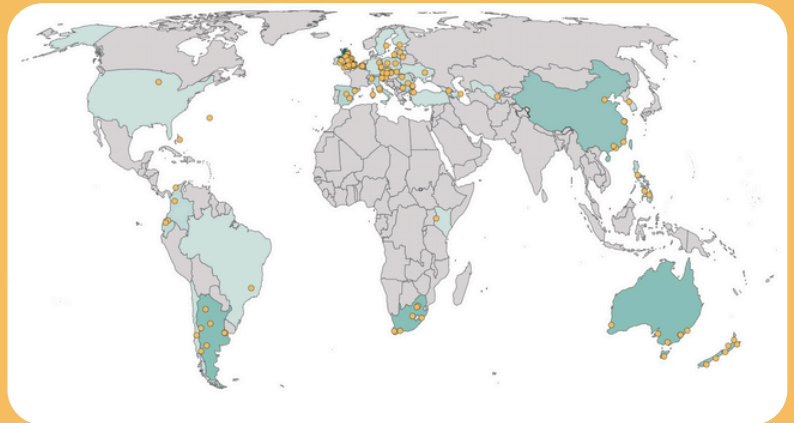
NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new members to our network:

- [University of Exeter](#), United Kingdom
- [Ness Botanic Gardens](#), United Kingdom
- [Bath Spa University](#), United Kingdom
- [Arboretum Tervurem](#), Belgium



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



MEMBERS' NEWS

Korea National Arboretum Launches Korean IPSN Guides and Hosts Plant Sentinel Workshop

The Korea National Arboretum (KNA) hosted the Korea Plant Sentinel Network Workshop, bringing together 26 botanic gardens and arboreta. The event focused on strengthening Korea's capacity to monitor and respond to plant pests and diseases.

At the workshop, KNA released the Korean versions of the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) Guides and Manuals. These resources support best practices in garden management, biosecurity, and early detection of emerging threats.



[Read more](#)

Biosecurity guidance by the Plant Health Centre

The Scottish Plant Health Centre has produced a range of biosecurity guidance, including [biosecurity sheets](#) for several plant pests and practical [biosecurity guides](#).

Action Oak Annual Report 2024-25

[Action Oak](#), a UK based initiative and partnership dedicated to protecting and safeguarding the country's native oak trees, has recently published their 2024-25 Annual Report. This report compiles a range of research, monitoring and evidence-based studies that help understand and address threats to the UK's native oak trees.



[Read the report](#)



NEW GUEST BLOGS: PLANE TREES UNDER PRESSURE

Our collaborators at **Forest Research** (Dr Caroline Gorton and Amirah Nigoumi) explore the emerging threats facing plane trees in the UK, from the ever-present risk of **Canker Stain of Plane** to the unexpected rediscovery of **Plane Lace Bug** on the streets of London.

Through real-world case studies, innovative surveillance and collaboration with botanic gardens and citizen scientists, the blogs highlight how early detection and shared vigilance are key to protecting these iconic urban trees.



[Read Blog about Canker Stain of Plane](#)



[Read Blog about Plane Lace Bug](#)

PROJECT UPDATES



SPRING SURVEILLANCE IN NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA

Botanic gardens across New Zealand and Australia have been monitoring UK plant hosts of interest (*Quercus robur*, *Q. petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*, and *Rosa* spp.) during the Southern Hemisphere spring. Monitoring focused on overall plant health using the IPSN Plant Health Checker.

Results will be reviewed in the new year in consultation with the participating gardens, project diagnosticians, and representatives of the National Plant Protection Organisations.



ASH DIEBACK AND EMERALD ASH BORER VISUAL MONITORING AND TRAPPING



Botanic gardens in Eastern European countries have deployed multi-funnel traps and carried out visual monitoring of *Fraxinus* species for Ash Dieback and Emerald Ash Borer during 2025 growing season.

Gardens have now submitted their results, which will be reviewed early next year together with the project diagnosticians.

A discussion session will also be held with participating gardens to identify lessons learned, areas for improvement, and priorities for the next phase of the project.



BEXYL PROJECT: SAMPLING AND AWARENESS RAISING FOR XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA

As part of the [BeXyL project](#), botanic gardens in Central and South America completed sampling plants within their collections. Obtained extracts have now been sent to the project's quarantine laboratories where they will be tested for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

To learn more about the sampling activities, watch the video prepared by Jardín Botánico Padre Julio Marrero in Ecuador, which showcases the work carried out in their collection:



[Watch the video](#)

To raise awareness of this highly impactful bacterium, efforts will now focus on the development of information and awareness-raising resources in collaboration with participating gardens and project experts that would be widely shared during 2026.



PROJECT UPDATES



»»» UK MONITORING AND SAMPLING INITIATIVES

Three monitoring and sampling initiatives have been running throughout the year across the UK carried out by botanic gardens and arboreta.

- **Holm Oak Monitoring Initiative:** Thirteen participating gardens have been carrying out close visual monitoring of holm oak trees for three priority pests of interest. Gardens are also encouraged to report any additional pests observed, helping to build baseline information on potential pest presence in holm oak across the UK.



[Read more about this project](#)



- **Canker Stain of Plane Passive Spore Trapping:** A national trapping network involving 12 gardens has been established to support preparedness for Canker Stain of Plane in the UK. Participating gardens set up spore traps and send filter papers monthly to Forest Research for analysis. Results will be reviewed and discussed in the new year.



- **Hawthorn Sampling Initiative:** Seven gardens have participated in the Hawthorn sampling initiative. Activities are currently on hold as hawthorn trees have lost their leaves. Sampling will resume in spring 2026.

UK GARDEN SENTINEL NETWORK (UKGSN) <<<

The UKGSN, a collaborative initiative between [Observatree](#), [PlantNetwork](#), and the IPSN, aims to support plant collection organisations in effectively engaging volunteers and students in plant health monitoring.

We recently met in York to discuss priorities and next steps. Work is now underway to develop a training toolkit to support volunteer and student coordinators at botanic gardens and arboreta. This toolkit will help coordinators engage volunteers in plant health monitoring more effectively, increasing the likelihood of early detection of issues within their collections, hence protecting these key assets and contributing to the wider UK plant biosecurity objectives.

If your garden is interested in participating in this initiative [contact us](#).



EVENTS

7

➤➤➤ IPSN UK MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING

As part of our efforts to build the IPSN community within the UK, we hold 2 network meetings annually to share updates, discuss emerging issues and plan for upcoming activities. We are currently planning our second meeting, which will take place online in late February or early March 2026. Stay tuned for further communications in the new year!

To be confirmed
early 2026

➤➤➤ RSB PLANT HEALTH SERIES WEBINAR

Don't miss this free Royal Society of Biology webinar on Plant health: "Cross-Sector Innovation in Microbiome-Based Protection", taking place on 3rd February, 2-3 pm (UK time). This session will explore sustainable crop protection, microbial solutions, and alternatives to conventional pesticides and fungicides

3
February
2026

Royal Society of
Biology



[Register here](#)

➤➤➤ CONFERENCE: EMERGING RISKS OF AGRILUS WOOD BORERS

The EPPO Secretariat has announced the "Safeguarding Forests in Europe: Emerging Risks of Agrilus Wood Borers (Buprestidae)" conference, taking place in Vienna. Co-organised by EPPO, FAO (REUFIS) and the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW), the event will support information exchange and preparedness among NPPOs and researchers to address the emerging threat that Agrilus borers beetles present for Europe's forests.

21-23
April
2026



BFW
AUSTRIAN
RESEARCH
CENTRE
FOR FORESTS



[Register here](#)

➤➤➤ BOTANIC BRIDGES CONGRESS 2026

The Jardín Botánico Nacional Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, will host the Botanic Bridges Congress 2026. Organised by the CCABGN (Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network) and BGCI, the event will bring together botanical and conservation professionals from across the Caribbean.

20-24
April
2026

CONGRESO 2026
**PUENTES
BOTÁNICOS**



[More information here](#)

➤➤➤ 9TH GLOBAL BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS

Save the date for the next Global Botanic Gardens Congress, hosted in Chicago by the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and BGCI. With a focus on habitat restoration, the congress will explore why the world's botanic gardens, with their expertise in plant conservation and public engagement, are uniquely positioned to address the global call for habitat restoration.

2-6
August
2027



[More information here](#)



PARTNERS FOR A THRIVING PLANET
The 9th Global Botanic Gardens Congress
in Chicago, USA



EVENTS CATCH UP!

BEXYL GENERAL ASSEMBLY <<<

IPSN joined the BeXyl General Assembly alongside 30 organisations from 14 countries, highlighting our collaboration with botanic gardens in South and Central America to improve understanding of *Xylella fastidiosa*. The project is entering its final phase, with a strong focus on collaboration and the development of outreach and awareness-raising resources.

RSB PLANT HEALTH SERIES & BIOLOGY WEEK, RBG EDINBURGH <<<



IPSN presented its work, activities, and resources during the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Week at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The event provided valuable opportunities to hear inspiring talks from the University of St Andrews and RBGE, and to strengthen connections with IPSN members and partners.

EABRACE PROJECT WORKSHOP, KRAKOW, POLAND <<<



IPSN had the privilege to participate in the two-day EABRACE workshop, organised by the project coordinators in SLU, where we shared further details of our work with botanic gardens across Eastern Europe. The workshop brought together researchers and NPPO representatives from key European countries to present their efforts to monitor and trap Emerald Ash Borer and to address ash dieback in *Fraxinus* populations, with a particular focus on Eastern Europe.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to learn about ongoing initiatives and the latest research approaches in the region, while strengthening collaborative links and generating new ideas to support forest and *Fraxinus* protection.



**Merry Christmas
and Best Wishes
for 2026.**



BGCI

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

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LinkedIn:

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nternational-plant-sentinel-
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