

IPSN NEWSLETTER



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

»» MARCH 2026 ««

IPSN UK members online meeting 2026



International Plant
Sentinel Network



KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 🌿 **New IPSN resources and tools** released to support plant health monitoring (3 posters & factsheets, 1 pest alert, and 1 plant health checker).
- 🌍 **Updates on UK surveillance initiatives** across botanic gardens covered plane tree pathogens, holm oak pests, and hawthorn diseases.
- 📄 **The latest UK Plant Health Risk Register additions** included emerging threats such as wood wasps and ash pathogens.
- 🏆 **IPSN Small Grants' recipients** presented project findings, alongside gardens sharing updates and knowledge on biosecurity and plant health monitoring.

Gardens are encouraged to share their experiences and insights on plant health monitoring and biosecurity to reach a broader audience across the network.

For more, check out the IPSN Blog Series @ [IPSN Blog Series](#) | [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#)

TOP NEWS!

IPSN UK Members Winter Online Meeting

“UK Winter Meeting Highlights Shared Progress on Plant Health”

The **2026 UK Winter Meeting** took place on **Thursday 26 February**, bringing together 27 garden representatives and plant health experts from across the network. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and share updates on recent and upcoming work across UK collections!

The meeting featured updates on UK-based IPSN initiatives, alongside presentations from Small Grants Project Leads who shared their project findings. The diagnostics team from Fera also highlighted the latest additions to the UK Risk Register, keeping participants informed of emerging risks.

Participants contributed updates from their own organisations, with discussions spanning a range of plant health and biosecurity topics. These included upcoming webinars, emerging pathogen concerns, pest surveillance approaches, biosecurity actions, and accreditation progress.

These regular check-ins continue to play an important role in strengthening connections across the network and ensuring everyone remains aligned on plant health priorities.



[Read about the meeting](#)


»»» RESOURCES

Organism Alert Poster

New Organism Alert out: Argentine Ant

Our new Organism Alert focuses on the Argentine Ant (*Linepethima Humile*), a highly invasive pest from South America and a significant threat to plants worldwide.

As part of our [Organism Alert poster series](#), this resource is designed to support awareness and early identification. The poster is available via the IPSN website or by clicking on the link below:

 [Download the alert poster](#)

We encourage organisations to print and display the poster to help raise awareness among staff and visitors.



Biosecurity Training Module

Biosecurity Module Now Accessible in Multiple Languages

The *Biosecurity for Botanic Gardens and Arboreta* Module, a free online resource providing guidance, knowledge and tools to protect living collections, support plant health, and strengthen biosecurity compliance, is **now available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#)**.

»»» NEWS

UK Sampling Project Call

Register for the 2026 Hawthorn Sampling Project

We are launching a new call for botanic gardens and arboreta to join the Hawthorn Sampling Project—an initiative led by Forest Research, Fera, The Tree Council, and the IPSN running from spring to autumn 2026 across the UK.


This year, we are launching a new protocol with improved guidance. Register to take part and contribute to this important UK-wide effort to safeguard our hawthorns!

 [Register here](#)

UK Meeting Host Call

Help Host our Upcoming UK Network Summer Meeting

We're inviting UK member gardens to host our upcoming one-day IPSN in-person meeting in late May or early June. It's a great opportunity to showcase your garden and collections, and highlight your work, while connecting with the wider network. If you would like the meeting to be held in your garden, please complete the form via the link below:

 [Get in touch by Friday 10 April](#)

RSB Personal Development Awards

IPSN Team Receives RSB Personal Development Awards

We're thrilled to announce that Itxaso Quintana and Lara Salido have received the Plant Health Personal Development Award from The Royal Society of Biology (RSB). This recognition not only highlights the team's contributions through the IPSN, but also provides an opportunity to further develop skills and expertise, which will help sustain the IPSN's continued growth while strengthening the support and knowledge shared across the community.

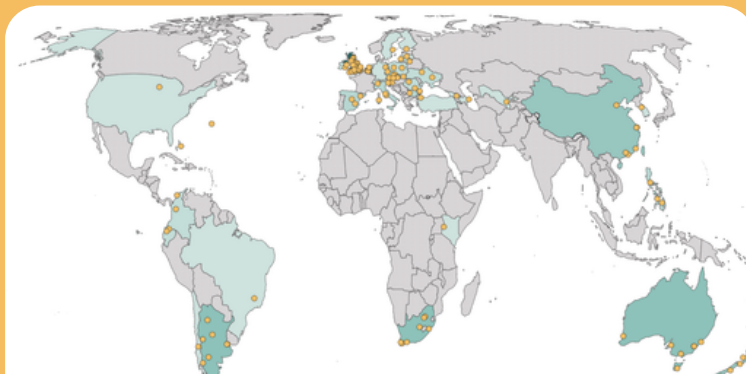




120+ MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

A warm welcome to our newest members from:

- [Lynford Arboretum, United Kingdom](#)
- [Jardin Botanique Jean Massart, Belgium](#)
- [Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam, the Netherlands](#)
- [O.V. Fomin of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine](#)



[View our members' map](#)



NEW RESEARCH

How are British Oaks doing? Check out Action Oak's report

This first of a kind report **synthesises key information, monitoring data, and existing research of UK's oak trees, while identifying important evidence gaps.** It highlights the ecological, environmental, cultural, and socio-economic importance of the UK's native oak trees, *Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*, mapping their geographical distribution and genetic diversity, and outlining the threats posed by climate change, extreme weather events, human activity, and the shifting range of pests and diseases.



[Read the report here](#)



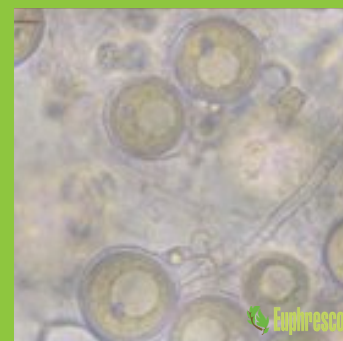
Euphresco Report On How to Beat *Phytophthora* in Gardens

The final report of the Euphresco project "*Phytophthora in public gardens: understanding pathways and mitigating risk*" has now been published.

Project findings reveal that public gardens and their supplying nurseries harbour a diverse range of *Phytophthora* species, indicating that plant introductions into gardens pose a substantial risk of pathogen spread. The study also found that certain plant genera are more frequently associated with *Phytophthora* than previously recognised. This report highlights the importance of implementing strong biosecurity measures throughout the entire plant supply chain: from procurement and border controls to post-planting inspections and improved day-to-day practices, including proper management of plant waste and compost.



[Read the report here](#)



Call for blogs from members around the world

Thanks to valuable contributions from our members and partners, the IPSN's blog series continues to grow, featuring insightful and diverse articles on plant health and biosecurity. Blog topics range from emerging pests and pathogens to personal experiences and global management efforts (see link below).



[Read blog series](#)



[Guidelines for authors](#)

We would love to hear from you and continue **publishing news and stories from your garden or arboretum.** If you have a piece to share, we encourage you to read the guidelines for authors (see link above) or get in touch via email (contact itxaso.quintana@bgci.org or lara.salido@bgci.org for more information).

PROJECT UPDATES



➤➤➤ GENERAL SURVEILLANCE IN NEW ZEALAND BOTANIC GARDENS COMPLETED

During the Southern Hemisphere's spring and summer, three New Zealand botanic gardens conducted the general surveillance of various UK plant hosts of interest, including oaks, beech trees, conifers such as spruces and pines, and roses.

At a follow-up meeting with the participating gardens and the National Plant Protection Organisation, expert diagnosticians from Fera reviewed and discussed the survey results. This survey detected no organisms of concern, in line with spring survey results. However, several widespread species were recorded, including oak and rose aphids, woolly aphids, leaf miners, and evidence of cicada activity. It was also noted that the season was somewhat unusual, with increased rainfall and cooler days, which appeared to reduce overall insect activity.

The participating gardens highlighted the additional benefits of these monitoring activities, particularly as valuable learning opportunities for apprentices, helping build their plant health knowledge and deepen their understanding of the condition of living collections.



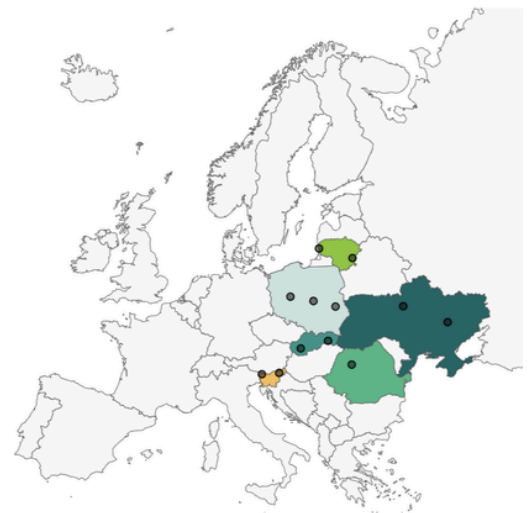
➤➤➤ EMERALD ASH BORER TRAPPING AND ASH DIEBACK VISUAL MONITORING COMPLETED

Over the past year, 12 gardens in Eastern Europe, including Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine, have carried out trapping and visual monitoring for Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*).

The results were reviewed by the project's entomologist at Fera, with no detections of Emerald Ash Borer or Ash Dieback reported.

Participating gardens are now preparing for the next trapping season in May 2026, which coincides with the onset of *Agrilus* activity.

■ Ukraine ■ Slovenia ■ Slovakia ■ Romania ■ Poland ■ Lithuania



➤➤➤ BEXYL PROJECT: SAMPLING COMPLETED

Using *Xylella fastidiosa* as a case study, this project highlights the crucial role that botanic gardens play in early detection, biosecurity best practices, and research.

Sampling has now been completed across six botanic gardens in Central and South America. Laboratory analysis by the IAS-CSIC Institute in Spain has also been finalised, with results currently being shared with participating gardens, alongside tailored follow-up guidance and next steps.

In the coming months, the project will focus on developing and launching an educational and awareness-raising toolkit.

The BeXyl launch event will take place on May 12, marking International Plant Health Day, at the Real Jardín Botánico of Madrid, Spain. For full details and registration, please visit the [Events page](#).

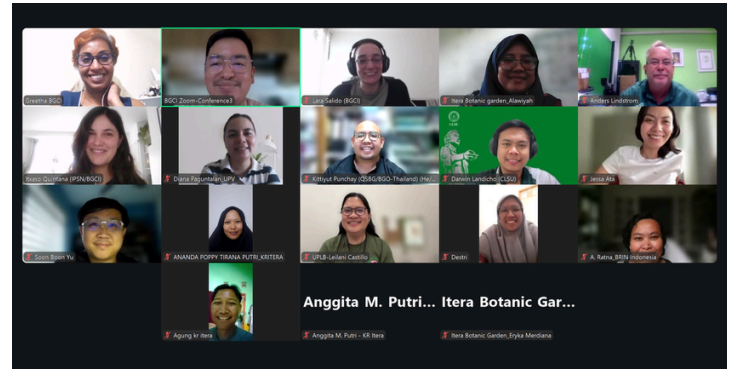
PROJECT UPDATES



SOUTHEAST ASIA PLANT BIOSECURITY GROUP (SEA-PBG) REPOSITORY

Following the establishment of the Southeast Asia Plant Biosecurity Group (SEA-PBG), a collaborative initiative facilitated by BGCI's Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network and the IPSN, members met to discuss the progress of one of the key priorities identified in previous sessions: the development of a shared repository.

This repository is continuously being enriched with regional legislation, biosecurity procedures, plant health monitoring resources, and relevant literature to help support knowledge sharing, highlight gaps in documentation and capacity, and help shape future plant biosecurity priorities across Southeast Asia.



[Learn more about the SEA-PBG](#)



UK MONITORING AND SAMPLING INITIATIVES

Two UK initiatives that ran in partnership with botanic gardens and arboreta across the country during 2025 have now concluded:

- **Holm Oak Baseline Surveillance** – This initiative focused on gathering baseline data for three key pests of holm oak: holm oak scale, holm oak midge, and holm oak Phylloxera, with 15 gardens participating in surveys.

In addition to target organisms, participants also reported a range of more common pests, with findings providing key information on organism distribution in the UK.

Following the success of this pilot survey, the IPSN will refine the survey protocol and develop a field guide to the most common holm oak arthropods, which will be sent to the network in due course.



[Read about the project here](#)

- **Canker Stain of Plane Passive Spore Trapping** – This project aimed to establish a spore trapping network to monitor for canker stain of plane and test sampling methods for its identification and diagnosis. Over the last two years, 12 gardens participated in this trapping initiative, with no detections of canker stain confirmed using the passive spore traps.

The project's significance and trapping programme results were highlighted at a final project meeting. Following valuable participant feedback, an updated trapping protocol is now in development and will soon be published and shared through the IPSN's communication channels



➤➤➤ SAFEGUARDING FORESTS IN EUROPE: EMERGING RISKS OF AGRILUS WOOD BORERS (BUPRESTIDAE)

21-23
APR
2026



The jointly organised EPPO, FAO, REUFIS, and BFW Conference '*Safeguarding Forests in Europe: Emerging Risks of Agrilus Wood Borers (Buprestidae)*' will be taking place in **Vienna, Austria**.



National plant protection organisations, researchers, and forest health specialists will participate in this event, which aims to strengthen collaboration and preparedness in response to the **growing threat of *Agrilus* wood-boring beetles in European forests**, including the emerald ash borer, bronze birch borer, and two-lined chestnut borer.



Learn more about the Conference

➤➤➤ 2026 BOTANICAL BRIDGES CONGRESS

20-24
APR
2026



The 2026 Botanical Bridges Congress, organised by the Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network, will be hosted by the **Jardín Botánico Nacional "Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso"** in **Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic**.



This Congress brings together **plant conservation experts from across the Caribbean and Central America**. It will feature lectures, presentations, posters, and workshops addressing **critical challenges facing the region's flora**, alongside post-conference recreational activities.



Learn more about the Congress

➤➤➤ BOTANIC GARDENS AND THE SPREAD OF XYLELLA

12
MAY
2026

The IPSN, the Real Jardín Botánico of Madrid, and the IAS-CSIC Institute will jointly host a hybrid event at **the Real Jardín Botánico**, where the **BeXyl Project's educational and awareness kit for botanic gardens will be launched**. This suite of informative resources **uses *Xylella fastidiosa* as a case study** to highlight the vital role botanic gardens play in early detection and education around plant health.

Botanic gardens and plant health professionals with an interest in these resources or in the impacts of *X. fastidiosa* are warmly invited to register.

Lanzamiento de Recursos divulgativos sobre *Xylella fastidiosa*

12 de Mayo

Día Internacional de la Salud Vegetal

Evento Híbrido:

- 📍 Real Jardín Botánico-CSIC Madrid
- 📺 Online via Zoom (4 pm - 6 pm Hora Española)

Que Esperar:

- El proyecto BeXyl y su papel en la lucha contra *Xylella fastidiosa*
- El papel de los jardines botánicos en la sanidad y bioseguridad vegetal
- El kit de materiales informativos y educativos para facilitar la divulgación

¡Inscríbete y participa!

Organiza:



Register here



**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:

Web: plantsentinel.org

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

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

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



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