



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

IPSN NEWSLETTER

April 2024



New members

We're thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the IPSN community amongst which are our first representatives of the Caribbean region:

[Birmingham Botanical Gardens, United Kingdom](#)

[Dnepropetrovsk Botanic Garden \(Dnipro National University Botanical Garden\), Ukraine](#)

[Grădina Botanică "Dimitrie Brândză", Romania](#)

[Grădina Botanică "Alexandru Borza", Romania](#)

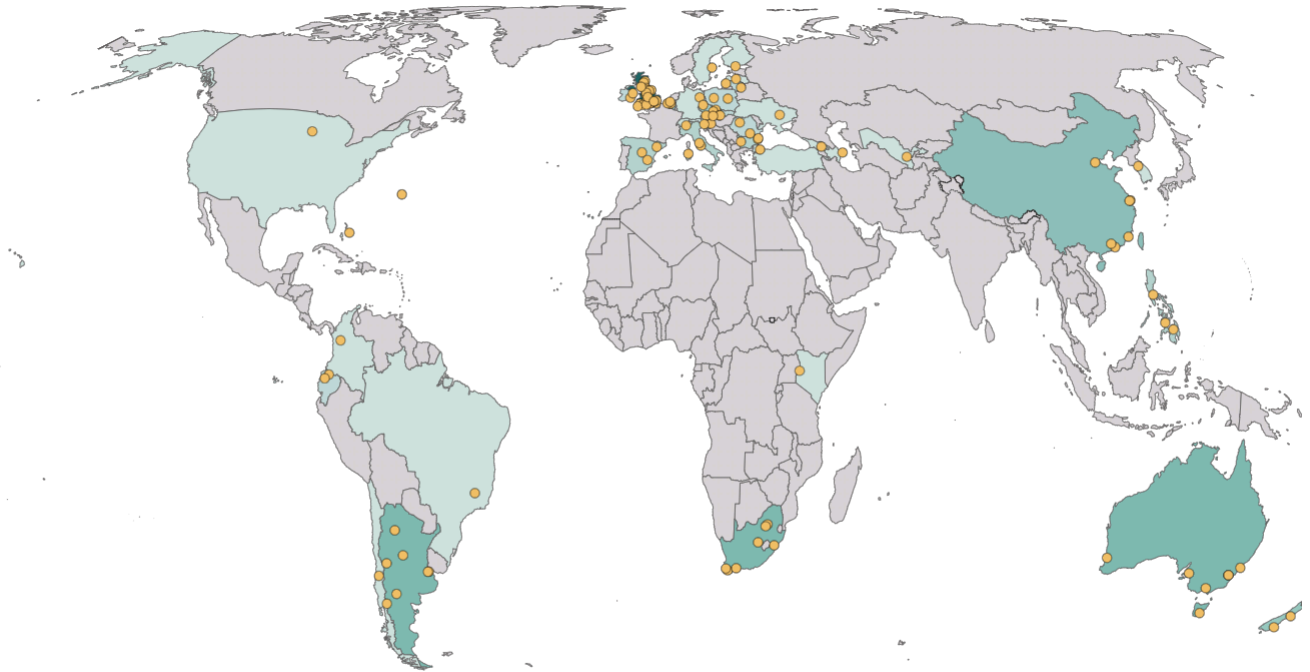
[The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve, Bahamas](#)

[Bermuda Botanical Gardens, Bermudas](#)

[Instituto Inhotim, Brazil](#)

And the excitement doesn't stop there – we're delighted to announce that **we've officially surpassed 100 members of the IPSN network!**

This milestone is a testament to the growing interest and relevance of biosecurity and pest and disease monitoring worldwide and the importance of strengthening our links and collaborations to maximize our efforts to protect plant health. We're excited to continue expanding and connecting with professionals from all corners of the globe:



Source: [World Bank Official Boundaries](#)

* A Flourish map



Resources

New posters & factsheets about relevant pest & diseases available now

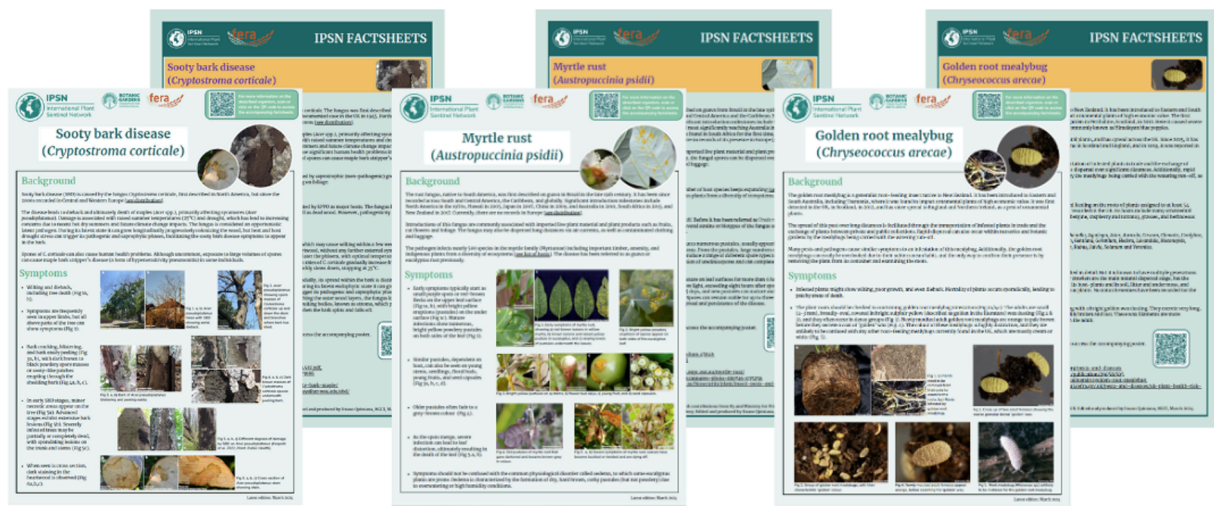
Our new set of IPSN resources are just out! They are available through IPSN's website for all of you to read and make use of.

This year we have put together posters and factsheets for:

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*): [Link to poster](#) & [link to factsheet](#)

Sooty Bark disease (*Cryptostroma corticale*): [Link to poster](#) & [link to factsheet](#)

Golden root mealybug (*Chryseococcus arecae*): [Link to poster](#) & [link to factsheet](#)



With additional updated resources for:

Xylella fastidiosa: [Link to poster](#) & [link to factsheet](#)

***Sirococcus* blight (*Sirococcus tsugae*)**: [Link to poster](#) & [link to factsheet](#)



To facilitate access, we have added QR codes into both resources. These posters and factsheets can be printed out and displayed in your organisations, as well as shared with other contacts/partners that you think might be interested.

The latest version of the ePHC/ Data Hub being used in general surveillance projects

The latest released version of the electronic Plant Health Checker (ePHC) form and Data Hub launched in September 2023. We have recently added new functionalities through the data Hubs, as well as a GPS function into the ePHC app.

To access the newest version of the ePHC form please follow [this link](#) or install the Survey123 app on your mobile or tablet and scan the QR code below:



Project updates

BeXyl project: Monitoring of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Meso & South American Botanic Gardens

The BeXyl project, funded by the European Union (EU), is a collaborative initiative involving 31 institutions, including Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). The aim is to establish an international community to advance in knowledge and develop practical solutions for the control of the bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa*, one of the most aggressive phytopathogens. For more information about the project: <https://www.bexylproject.org/>

At IPSN, we are collaborating with botanic gardens from Meso and South America, *X. fastidiosa* endemic region, to learn more about this high-risk organism. As part of our work, we have developed a detailed protocol for participating botanic gardens (Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala) to sample potential host plants in their living collections.

The sampling and its posterior analysis, will identify the strains of *X. fastidiosa* present in endemic countries and help assess their pathogenicity based on observed symptomatology.

General surveillance

There are two distinct projects that have been carried out in the past year as part of our efforts to monitor potential novel interactions between pests & diseases and host plants of interest:

1. One with focus on UK species of interest (ie. *Quercus rubra*, *Q. petraea*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Picea sitchensis* and *Rosa* spp.), for which New Zealand and Australian botanic gardens have monitored key UK species in their living collections .



2. One where botanic gardens in Chile and Argentina have monitored US native species in their living collections (i.e. *Quercus rubra*, *Q. alba*, *Pinus elliotti*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and other close related spp).



As part of this work, a general assessment of the plants' health is done using our Plant Health Checker forms (available [here](#)) or our ePHC app (the digital version of the Plant Health Checker, available through the QR above).

Monitoring has now finished for the 2023-24 period with good feedback from the participating gardens and diagnosticians regarding the work undertaken, data provided and the functionality of the project tools. While we wait for the final diagnostic testing to be carried

out, from IPSN we would like to thank all our collaborators for their efforts, support and fabulous work during the past 12 months!!!

Starting the EAB monitoring and trapping for 2024

With another successful Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring/trapping season in 2023 we are now getting ready to start the new trapping and monitoring season for 2024.

For this project, Botanic Gardens in Eastern European countries monitor ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in their collections for the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetles, *Agrilus planipennis*, by carrying out visual surveys and setting traps on selected trees. In addition, symptoms of ash dieback (ADB) are also monitored due to the sensibility of trees affected by ADB to EAB infestation [Find more information about the project [here](#)]

In 2023, we received reports from 16 gardens in 8 participating countries. While no EAB was detected in the traps set, ADB symptoms were observed in some of the surveyed *Fraxinus* trees.

We look forward to continuing with the monitoring of these specimens during 2024 to ensure we can track any further spread of EAB and ADB throughout our network of collaborating gardens.

We would also be looking to expand our reach and impact by strengthening our links with organizations such as EPPO, which are involved in similar efforts in the region.



Citizen Science Initiative

UK Garden Sentinel Network (UKGSN)

The IPSN, together with [Observatree](#) and [PlantNetwork](#), has now launched the UK Garden Sentinel Network (UKGSN), a new collaborative initiative that brings together a network of plant health diagnosticians and other plant health experts, with the UK's network of plant collections (PlantNetwork) and the network of citizen scientists already mobilised through Observatree and other citizen science initiatives.



UKGSN

The aims of this partnership are to raise awareness about tree health, surveillance and identification tree pests and pathogens of concern as well as the promotion of reporting through [TreeAlert](#) (an online reporting tool for UK tree pests and diseases, managed by Forest Research)

In the following months, we will be kickstarting the UKGSN activities with a webinar and various monitoring activities during spring and summer.

See our 'Upcoming events' section for more details re webinar and stay tuned to our next newsletter for more information on the surveillance work.



Members' News

We have now included in our newsletter a section for news submitted by the network members. This way, members can share their valuable information and keep up to date with each other's activities. If members have news relating to their phytosanitary efforts, notable events or relevant biosecurity concerns which they wish to be included, we ask that they please submit a short paragraph (<200 words) with images to itxaso.quintana@bgci.org, and we will share the news in the next newsletter.

Jardin Botanic Gaspar Xuarez S.J. (JBGXSJ), Argentina

[English] The JBGXSJ of the Catholic University of Córdoba, Argentina, member of IPNS, has been carrying out a restoration, ecological management and in situ conservation programme for 18 years within a 12-hectare native park, a relic of Espinal's native forest, characterized by its biodiversity. Situated adjacent to the city of Córdoba, its conservation serves as a valuable educational resource. Annually, in commemoration of the Tree Day in Argentina (29th Aug), a Carob Tree (*Neltuma alba*) Planting Day is held, with the aim of expanding the preserved mountain fragment through its ecological restoration efforts. Participants include students and teachers from visiting schools, as well as students, professors, authorities, and administrative staff from the University, achieving excellent

personal interaction. Thus, this program contributes to expanding, enriching, and conserving indigenous resources for better life quality for present and future generations.

For more information watch [this video](#).

[Spanish] El JBGXSJ de la Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Argentina, miembro de IPNS, ejecuta desde hace 18 años un programa de restauración, manejo ecológico y conservación in situ de un Parque autóctono de 12 hectáreas, relicto de monte nativo de Espinal, caracterizado por su biodiversidad. Al lindar con la ciudad de Córdoba, su conservación lo convierte en excelente recurso educativo. Cada año, conmemorando el día del árbol en Argentina (29 Agosto), se realiza una Jornada de Plantación de algarrobos (*Neltuma alba*), con el objetivo de expandir el fragmento del monte conservado a través de la Restauración ecológica del mismo. Participan de la acción alumnos y docentes de colegios visitantes, como también alumnos, profesores, autoridades, personal administrativo de la Universidad, logrando una excelente interacción personal. Así, este programa contribuye a ampliar, enriquecer y conservar los recursos autóctonos para una mejor calidad de vida en la actualidad y para futuras generaciones.

Para más información ver [este video](#).

Written by/ Escrito por: Prof. Univ. Ing. Agr Adriana Palacios, Directora JBGXSJ

Images by/ Imágenes por: Franco Speranza, Estudiante de Agronomía



Events update

PAST EVENTS

2024 Botanical Bridges Congress in Cartagena, Colombia

Between the 12-16th February 2024 the 8th Botanical Bridges Congress took place in Cartagena, Colombia, bringing together botanic gardens from the Caribbean and Central American region. With 120 participants from 23 countries. The meeting proved to be a key opportunity to share experiences and expertise in living collections management, development, educational activities and other science and horticulture initiatives.



As part of the presentation programme, the IPSN shared a talk highlighting the importance of biosecurity measures in living collections management and invited gardens to join in the [BeXyl project](#) to investigate the pathogenicity and range host of different *Xylella fastidiosa* strains that might be present in the region.



Photo Credit: Patricia Malcolm, BGCi

Future Proofing Plant Health (FPPH) DEFRA event at Kew Gardens

On the 23rd of January 2024, DEFRA hosted a stakeholders FPPH meeting at Kew Gardens, London, United Kingdom. For the IPSN team it was a great opportunity to learn more about ongoing projects and upcoming proposals as well as having the opportunity to create new connections to collaborate in the promotion and enhancement of plant health initiatives both in the UK and abroad.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree Alert and UKGSN Webinar – 9th April 2024

The first UK Garden Sentinel Network (UKGSN) webinar, ‘**Tree Alert & the UKGSN**’, will take place on Tuesday, 9th of April. The webinar will include:

- An introduction to the UKGSN
- How sentinel gardens are used within IPSN
- Introduction to Observatree and TreeAlert, the tool to monitor and report UK trees health
- Presentation of the pilot activity to be launched during the Plant Health week, with the introductions to the three pests and pathogens that will be monitored: the great spruce bark beetle, the elm zigzag sawfly, and the mountain ash ringspot
- Q&A session

If you would like to join, register [here](#).

UK members online meeting – 15th April 2024

The first meeting of 2024 for the **IPSN UK group** is scheduled for the 15th of April.

This will be an online gathering, where Botanic Gardens will have the opportunity to share their updates on activities/news, discuss pests and diseases of interest and hear from the latest developments from the network and its initiatives for 2024. The meeting will also be an occasion to identify topics of interest for our next IPSN UK in person meeting planned for the autumn.

Plant Health Week – 6th to 12th of May 2024

This year, the UK National Plant Health week will be taking place between 6th-12th May with the International Plant Health Day on Friday 12th.

To mark these, we will share more information, resources, and any upcoming Plant Health and Biosecurity initiatives. So, keep an eye on our [social media](#) and inbox for more news!

8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress – 6th to 9th of August 2024

Join us for the 8th Global Botanic Garden Congress, where we'll explore innovative approaches for botanic gardens to fulfil their missions in research, conservation, education, and outreach. **Tickets on sale now:** <https://www.8gbgc.sbg.org.sg/Site/Registration>



***Remember: Update your BGC! [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 in your area with the IPSN through our listserver or via email at itxaso.quintana@bgci.org or lara.salido@bgci.org and keep up-to-date with all IPSN news by following us on Twitter / X [@IPSN_BGCI](#)

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