



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

IPSN NEWSLETTER

December 2023



New members

A warm welcome to our newest IPSN member:

[The Kórnik Arboretum \(Institute of Dendrology of the Polish Academy of Sciences\)](#)



Resources

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

The latest released version of the electronic Plant Health Checker (ePHC) form and Data Hub launched in September 2023 is now being used for data collection for the general surveillance projects by Botanic Gardens in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Chile. This version has made data collection easier thanks to the newly included GPS function, allowing the tracking of individual plants that have been surveyed and facilitating data shareability among partners.

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:



On-going work for biosecurity Moodle module

We are currently putting together a biosecurity Moodle module on Biosecurity for Botanic Gardens/Arboreta that will run through the key aspects of best practices as well as provide templates/examples of biosecurity documentation for gardens to download and adapt to their activities.

We plan to release the new Moodle module in March 2024 through [BGCI's online training platform](#) in BGCI's website so keep an eye on our website and newsletter in the next months!



Projects

ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

Spring workshop Australia & New Zealand

After completing the 2023 spring surveys for the general surveillance project in Australia and New Zealand, we held a workshop to discuss the findings and prepare for the upcoming summer surveillance. Two Botanic Gardens in Australia and seven in New Zealand actively participated in the spring surveys that aim to monitor British key plant species held their collections for new/emerging pests and pathogens.

Encouragingly, the latest spring survey reported minimal occurrences of pests and diseases of interest. However, it is worth mentioning the published first report of the presence of *Phytophthora pluvivora* in Australia as part of IPSN monitoring efforts in the region. For more information, take a look at the [published article](#).



Spring workshop Argentina & Chile

Spring monitoring also took place in Argentina and Chile from September-November 2023 as part of the USFS general surveillance project, with the objective of surveying North American plant host species held in collections in Chile and Argentina for new pests/pathogens of interest. Four Botanic Gardens in Argentina and one in Chile are monitoring the North American native species in their respective live collections.

During the workshop the results found during the spring monitoring were discussed and specific trees exhibiting intriguing symptoms were identified for further testing and monitoring during the summer season. Additionally, it was proposed to hold a supplementary training to explore more in depth the use of the electronic Plant Health Checker (ePHC) form and the Data Hub for the upcoming summer monitoring.

Feedback workshop EAB monitoring and trapping

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring and trapping season has now finished for the 2023 season. This project monitors *Fraxinus* species for the presence of Ash Dieback and Emerald Ash Borer in Eastern European Botanic Gardens through visual surveys and trapping. Ten countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) are involved in visual surveys with eight of those also involved in trapping.

Feedback from the participants was generally positive regarding the guidance provided, installation and monitoring of the traps. Key challenges encountered during this monitoring season included adverse climatic conditions (i.e. wind and rain) and the unintended interception of non-target organisms, such as bats. Despite these challenges, participants effectively deployed and operated the traps and reported a successful monitoring season.



Members' News

Call for 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.



Events update

PAST EVENTS

Research & Development meeting - October 2023

The Research and Development (R&D) Committee convened on October 11, 2023, to receive updates on the recent developments within the IPSN project, review the newly incorporated pests and diseases in DEFRA's Plant Health Risk register, learn about DEFRA's upcoming Plant Health funding opportunities, and deliberate on prospective directions for expanding our project and resources portfolio in 2024.

With a follow-up meeting due in the new year, we will be bringing you their final feedback in our next newsletter. So, watch this space for further details!

IPSN UK autumn meeting: Birmingham Botanic Garden - October 2023

The IPSN UK network gathered at [Birmingham Botanical Gardens](#) on October 25, 2023, bringing together a diverse group of IPSN UK network members and collaborators, APHA, FERA, DEFRA delegates, and IPSN representatives from BGCI. The meeting unfolded with a series of engaging presentations, covering updates on IPSN activities/committees, insights into new and emerging pests, and a comprehensive review of the recently launched Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain. Discussions throughout the day emphasized the pivotal role of Botanic Gardens in plant health, biosecurity, education, and awareness. Attendees shared updates on ongoing biosecurity activities, emphasizing the importance of awareness, education, and citizen science in promoting plant health and biosecurity. The day concluded with a tour of Birmingham BGs' grounds and a group brainstorming session, identifying priority areas for future collaborative activities.



Looking ahead to 2024, plans are underway for an online meeting in March, offering participants the opportunity to share their upcoming plans and activities while seeking input on areas of interest for potential support/training and collaboration. Keep an eye out for the forthcoming meeting invitation in early 2024.

BeXyl General Assembly: Madrid - October 2023

The first General Assembly of the European Horizon 2020 project, Beyond Xylella ([BeXyl](#)) was held on November 15th and 16th at the CSIC headquarters in Madrid. The assembly provided a platform for project partners to exchange key developments within each of the project's work packages and discuss and agree on activities and milestones for the upcoming year.

Preceding the assembly was a one-day congress on *Xylella fastidiosa*. The meeting featured a diverse array of presentations covering topics such as updates on the status of the *Xylella* epidemic in Europe, the legislative framework at both European and national scales, monitoring and early detection of target locations, genomics, molecular diagnosis, as well as control and mitigation measures.



As a crucial part of the project consortium, IPSN is actively looking for engagement with Botanic Gardens in the target regions (Meso- and South America), to utilize their collections as sentinel plants in the region (please get in touch if you are interested in learning more about how to join in). In addition, IPSN will be spearheading the development of information resources to enhance public awareness and foster monitoring efforts in the project target regions.

Stay tuned for further updates in the new year!

IPSN at 10 Webinar: Watch it again! - November 2023

This year marked a significant milestone as IPSN celebrated 10 years of dedicated work! Throughout the years, IPSN has been pivotal in initiatives related to plant health monitoring, pest and disease surveillance, and providing essential biosecurity guidance.

Commemorating our 10th anniversary, a webinar was held on November 29, 2023, to honour the collective efforts that have made IPSN to success over the past decade. The webinar featured enlightening presentations from our key partners and project leaders, providing a platform for reflection on our journey. The event was also a showcase for the remarkable milestones accomplished during this time and the invaluable partnerships that have been instrumental in fuelling our success:



If you missed the IPSN at 10 years webinar or you would like to watch it again, you can [access the recording](#).

Thank you to all who have made the IPSN a success over the past decade!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference in Cartagena Botanical Bridges - February 2024

Between 12th and 16th of February 2024 the Botanical Bridges Congress will take place in the [Botanical Garden of Cartagena](#), Colombia. The Congress is entitled “The role of Botanic Garden sin the Conservation of Caribbean Plant Diversity” and will host participants from the Caribbean and Central American Botanical Gardens Network. IPSN will be contributing through a presentation on the importance of pest and disease monitoring in botanic collections using the [BeXyl Project](#) (see section above), as a case study.

As part of this initiative we are also looking for South and Central American partners to assist in surveying and sampling host plants for the endemic *X. fastidiosa* to help identify the range of strains and host-disease assemblages present in the region.

Calls for the Botanic Bridges Congress are closed now, but if you are interested in participating in the BeXyl Project, please get in touch with Lara Salido at lara.salido@bgci.org.



Do share any information you may have on new and emerging pests and diseases in your area with the IPSN through our listserver/via 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](https://twitter.com/IPSN_BGCI)

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