



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

IPSN NEWSLETTER

June 2023



New members

New Belgian members have joined after our kick-start workshop, plus our first Swedish institution

[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)

[Ghent University Botanical Garden](#)

[The SLU Knowledge Garden](#)



IPSN Small Grants Update

Call for ideas of topics or themes

The IPSN is continuing our Small Grants programme in 2023. These grants aim to support the development of the Network in the UK whilst providing useful background information on living collections and offering capacity building opportunities to early-career researchers in the plant collection community.

Last year's grant-funded studies involved an inventory of Australian and New Zealand tree species in UK collections, a horizon scan of biosecurity gaps & needs in UK plant collections

(both RBG Edinburgh) and a study on potentially invasive species held in UK collections (St Andrew's Botanic Garden).

Looking to maximise useful outcomes from these grants, this year we are inviting botanic gardens and individuals to submit ideas regarding topics or themes for independent studies that will support the development of the IPSN in the UK and contribute to capacity building within the plant collection community. Email the IPSN co-ordinator at lara.salido@bgci.org with your ideas!



Projects

ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

Kick-start workshop of targeted surveillance in Belgium

Earlier in May the survey work for key organisms of interest for the UK was kick-started with 7 arboreta/gardens in Belgium joining the monitoring for: rose rosette virus, beech leaf disease/petrakia leafspot, pine tortoise scale and oak bark borer beetles (gold-spotted oak borer, two-lined chestnut borer and polyphagous shot hole borer).

If you are interested in learning more about these organisms/carrying out your own surveys, please [visit our website](#) and get in touch at lara.salido@bgci.org.

Emerald ash borer monitoring and trapping workshop

On the 4th May 2023 we had an in-person meeting at [VDU Botanic Garden](#) in Kaunas to provide further training and capacity building to partners participating in our visual and trapping surveys for emerald ash borer/ash dieback in Eastern Europe. Representatives of 7 institutions within 5 of the participating countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine) attended the workshop.

This consisted of theoretical and practical sessions that focused on both the visual monitoring and trapping of emerald ash borer (EAB) with detailed information about the:

- distribution, dispersal and life cycle of EAB
- symptoms of infestation
- running of surveys
- collection of samples
- identification of specimens

as well as a practical session on how to conduct the set-up and inspection of traps.

Visual monitoring and trapping surveys are now underway in the participating gardens and arboreta.



Online EAB monitoring and trapping webinar

The start of this month saw botanic garden and arboretum professionals from several European countries participate in an online training webinar for our EAB monitoring and trapping programme. The webinar covered similar content to our workshop in Kaunas for those who could not be there in person, ensuring that all participants in the programme have access to this training and information.

BeXyl - call for South American gardens to join in

We are looking for South American partners to assist in surveying and sampling in the [BeXyl Project](#), researching *Xylella*. Partners would play a role in using their collections in South America, where *X. fastidiosa* is endemic, to help identify the range of host species and the different strains that might be infecting specimens.

If your garden is interested in participating in this initiative, please get in touch at lara.salido@bgci.org so we can provide further information about how to get involved.

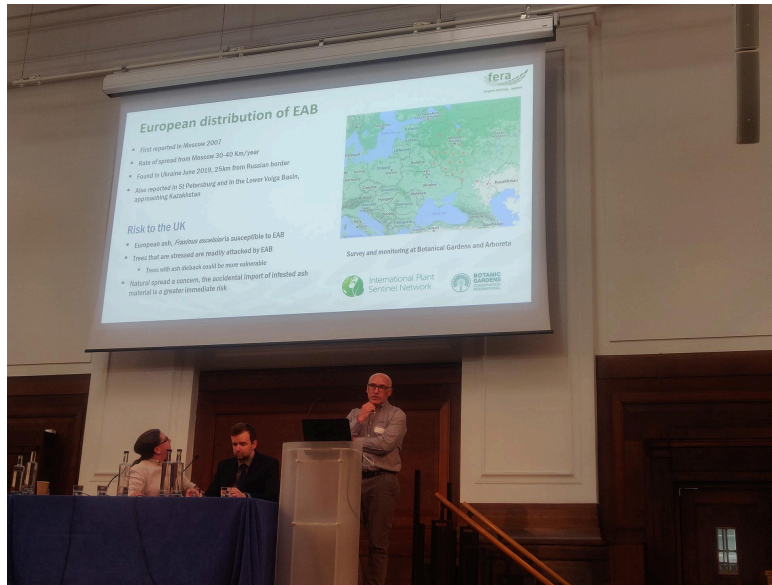


Events update

DEFRA Plant Health Research and Development Forum

The IPSN attended the Forum to hear about the latest developments in DEFRA's current funded projects related to Research and Development (R&D). Themes included Risk &

Horizon Scanning, Diagnostics & Surveillance, Plant Health Behaviours and Co-design & Innovation. Talks, across the breadth of DEFRA's funding stream and R&D strategy, touched on topics such as microclimate modelling, *Phytophthora*, Euphresco, EAB, ash dieback, stewardship science and local authority support.



UPCOMING EVENTS

UK Meeting in autumn

We are starting preparations for the IPSN's annual UK-based network meeting in the autumn, which will see updates from attendees, the sharing of news, discussion and plans for the following year. A date and venue will be shared closer to the time.

Argentina Workshop

An in-person workshop will be held in September for Argentinian botanic gardens surveying American-native tree species for new pests or diseases in their collections. Our partners at the United States Forest Service and SENASA will provide diagnostic support. The workshop will introduce the project, the role of Argentinian participants, the workplan and outline available support and resources.



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 lara.salido@bgci.org and keep up-to-date

with all IPSN news by following us on Twitter [@IPSN_BGCI](#)

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