



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network

IPSN NEWSLETTER

December 2022



Resources

IPSN Upcoming resources for 2023

As part of our commitment to keep providing useful information regarding pest and diseases of interest for the network we are putting together 3 new posters covering:

- Pine pest/diseases (including: pine processionary moth, pine tortoise scale, diplopedia/dothistroma needle blight)
- *Phytophthora pluvialis* on different host species (e.g. Hemlock, Douglas fir)
- Agrilus beetles (e.g. *A. bilineatus*, *A. planipennis*)

These will be available in March 2023 so... watch this space!



Projects

NEW : BEXYL (Beyond Xylella)

During October 18th/19th the European Horizon 2020 project **Beyond Xylella (BeXyl)** was launched to look at the development of integrated management strategies for mitigating *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xf) impacts in Europe.

The bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* is one of the most threatening plant pathogens in the world. It disrupts the stream of water and mineral nutrients in the xylem vessels and it known to be the causal agent of important diseases in a wide range of plant species, such as grapevine, almond, oleander, orange, peach, citrus, coffee, avocado, olive tree, and oaks.

As part of the project Consortium, the IPSN will be contributing to the project by:

- Engaging with botanic gardens/arboreta in the regions of interest to collect data on Xf presence in selected host plant species.
- Helping to design/coordinate workshops/webinars to provide further information about Xf.
- Helping in the dissemination/communication of the project outcomes.

For more information and updates about the project visit: <http://www.bexylproject.org>

General Surveillance of UK host species of interest

With funding from the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the general surveillance project to monitor UK species of interest (i.e. *Fagus sylvatica*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Quercus robur/petraea*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Rosa spp*) in Australia and New Zealand in entering its third year.

As part of our efforts to make the monitoring more efficiently we are encouraging partner gardens to use our electronic Plant Health Checker (PHC) app to submit survey forms as well as testing a new web-interface to facilitate data collection and information exchange.

For anyone interested in learning more about the PHC, the forms and how to download the app more information can be found under the resources tab on our [website](#)



IPSN Small Grants

As part of our three-year programme of activities in the UK, the IPSN offered three small grants to botanic gardens / individuals to carry out three independent studies due to end in March 2023. These are the latest updates on the progress of these studies:

Identifying biosecurity gaps and needs in UK plant collections

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is working with the IPSN to develop a survey on biosecurity in UK plant collections. The aim is to identify key gaps and needs related to biosecurity and explore how these can be addressed.

An inventory of tree species in UK collections

This project is being carried out by James Douglass, a BSc student at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and it aims to form an updated inventory of Australian and New Zealand native tree species present in UK living collections.

The objective is to collect comprehensive presence/absence data on the 3,000 or so species of trees native to Australia and New Zealand with the intention of performing secondary research into how these various species perform in the UK and creating potential reciprocal research links for the future.

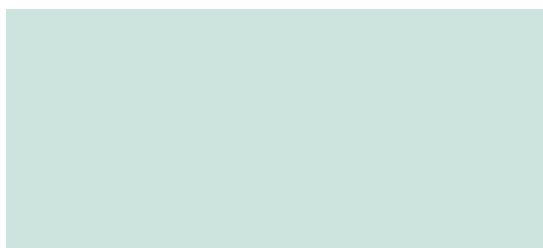
Any individual or institution interested in the representation of these tree species in the UK are invited to get in touch with the IPSN.

A survey of potentially invasive species in the UK plant collections

This study is being led by Dr Harry Watkins from St Andrews Botanic Garden in Scotland. It aims to identify non-native species in UK collections that have the potential to become invasive in the UK. Based on comparing lists of species with known invasive potential, with lists of plants known to occur in UK collections, the study will focus on:

- Understanding how many species of concern are growing in botanic or horticultural collections;
- Developing key management actions for plant collections to measure invasion debt;
- Creating distribution forecasts for two potentially invasive species under future climate scenarios;
- Categorising species of concern along a spectrum of naturalising <- - -> invasive.

This study will also provide a link to the working group *Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants (PGSIP)* : [Home Page - BRAHMS Online \(mortonarb.org\)](http://mortonarb.org) that has been established in the US and will assess the potential to adopt their guidelines in the UK.



Events update

1st International Plant Health Conference (IPHC)

Between the 21st and 23rd September, over 500 people from every continent but Antarctica gathered at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London for the first International Plant Health Conference. A range of talks, presentations and discussions covered topics from forecasting climate-induced changes in pest species' ranges to nature-based pesticide alternatives to pursuing equity in the global plant health sector and many issues besides. Our Suzanne Sharrock gave an engaging talk on the International Plant Sentinel Network as part of a symposium on plant health early warning systems; assistant officer Miles Kitching was also in attendance.

More information is available [on the IPSN News page](#).

UK IPSN MEMBERS BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP

On the 16th November, the IPSN held a workshop with members of the UK Botanic Garden and Arboreta Collections Consortium (UKBGACC) to report and discuss a range of pressing biosecurity topics. An introduction to the Plant Healthy biosecurity standard and its mechanisms was presented, before participants reflected on their experiences with the scheme. BGCI General Secretary Paul Smith introduced BGCI's new certification system to support responsible plant material transfer, before gathering feedback from the attending parties. A parallel discussion was held on initiating the IPSN's Small Grant gap analysis project on the biosecurity needs of botanic collections, and updates were given on the IPSN's other two Small Grant projects and the methods being applied to each. Suzanne Sharrock explored the commonly under-estimated risks of wild-collected seeds. A presentation was given on emerging and potential UK insect pests, including oak lace bug, and the increasing escape of invasive species from greenhouses under global warming.

The workshop received very positive feedback: "one of the best and most relevant one day workshops I have attended in a long-time", "variety of speakers was superb", "a really useful and successful workshop." We agree with these sentiments, and thank all of our attendees for making it a success!



Plantnetwork webinar

A webinar on Plant Health Surveillance was recently organised by PlantNetwork (The network of Plant Collections in the UK and Ireland). This session provided an update on plant health in the UK.

Suzanne Sharrock from BGCI spoke about the work of the IPSN and other biosecurity and surveillance work undertaken by BGCI. Andrew Gaunt from the UK's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) introduced topical issues, including reports of major pests and diseases in the UK and the need for constant surveillance and vigilance. Dr David Slawson from the UK Tree Health Citizen Science Network spoke about the role that citizen science can play in plant health surveillance and how gardens can get more involved in regular monitoring, including training provision for volunteers.

PlantNetwork members and anyone who registered for the webinar can access the recording here: [Plant Health Surveillance | PlantNetwork](#)

BOTANICAL BRIDGES CONGRESS 2022

During the 14th-18th November the IPSN participated in the Botanical Bridges Congress held in the Bahamian island of Eleuthera. There, members of the Caribbean and Central American Botanic Garden Network (CCABGN) came together to explore issues and exchange ideas about how botanical gardens play a leading role in plant conservation and taxonomy, sustainable development goals, and climate change adaptation and mitigation; as well as agreeing on a Plant Conservation Strategy for the region.

With over 40 participants the range of topics covered from *in situ/ex situ* projects, the role of BGs in conserving not only plant species but also the knowledge and livelihoods of the local communities and the importance of local/regional networks to carry out these key initiatives. Lara Salido, the IPSN project officer, presented the work that IPSN is currently carried out by the network and highlighted the various resources available to BGs through the project.

More information can be found on the congress page: [BotanicalBridges2022](#)



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