

# IPSN NEWSLETTER



**IPSN**

International Plant  
Sentinel Network



**MARCH 2025**



## TOP NEWS!

### Plant Health & Biosecurity Workshop in Barbados

#### Strengthening Conservation Through Collaboration with regional partners

The Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network (CCABG) in collaboration with the IPSN, BGCI and regional partners hosted a 3-day workshop on Plant Health and Biosecurity at Andromeda Botanic Gardens, Barbados in February 2025.

Where we shared experiences and expertise, addressing the unique challenges faced by botanical gardens and related institutions across this region.



[READ ABOUT THE MEETING HERE](#)



## RESOURCES

### Host plants posters & factsheets

### New host plants posters and factsheets available now!

New IPSN resources are now available! Focused on host plants - Boxwood, Hornbeam and Holm Oak - they highlight key pests and diseases. Each poster is accompanied by a factsheet, accessible via a QR code. These tools support the identification of target organisms. We encourage you to print, display, and share them within your organisation and network.

You can now find the **POSTERS** and **FACTSHEETS** on the IPSN website, or access them here:

### • Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) decline:

The poster and factsheet for Hornbeam decline cover the following topics:

- Anthostoma decipiens:** A fungal pathogen that causes dieback in European hornbeam, particularly in trees already stressed by heat and dry conditions. It is a newly identified pest in Europe, first reported in 2015. Symptoms include large lesions with necrotic tissue, hollowing of trunks, and dieback of branches.
- Cryphonectria carpinicola:** A newly identified fungus in 2020, causing stem cankers and dieback. It is highly host-specific, affecting only European hornbeam. Symptoms include dieback on twigs and branches, and a visible area of dead bark on the trunk.

The factsheet for Hornbeam decline provides detailed information on *Anthostoma decipiens*, including its introduction, host, biology, and more information.

The factsheet for *Cryphonectria carpinicola* provides detailed information on this newly identified fungus, including its introduction, host, biology, and more information.

### • Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) pests:

The poster and factsheet for Holm oak pests cover the following topics:

- Holm oak bark scale (Nidularia pulvinata):** A scale insect that feeds on sap from evergreen oak trees. It is native to the Mediterranean region.
- Holm oak gall midge (Drosyilia lichenetensis):** A small fly whose larvae induce distinctive galls on the leaves of evergreen oaks.
- Holm oak Phylloxera (Phylloxera quercus):** An aphid-like, sap-sucking insect that feeds on the leaves of holm oak and other oak trees.

The factsheet for Holm oak pests provides detailed information on *Nidularia pulvinata*, *Drosyilia lichenetensis*, and *Phylloxera quercus*, including their introduction, host, biology, and more information.

The factsheet for *Nidularia pulvinata* provides detailed information on this scale insect, including its introduction, host, biology, and more information.

### • Boxwood (*Buxus sp.*) pests & diseases:

The poster and factsheet for Boxwood pests and diseases cover the following topics:

- Box Tree Caterpillar (Cydalis perspectalis):** A pest that feeds on the leaves of boxwood, causing defoliation and damage.
- Boxwood Psyllid (Psylla buxi):** A pest that causes leaf curling and distortion in boxwood.
- Box Blight (Cylindrocladum buxicola):** A fungal pathogen that causes dieback in boxwood.

The factsheet for Boxwood pests and diseases provides detailed information on *Cydalis perspectalis*, *Psylla buxi*, and *Cylindrocladum buxicola*, including their introduction, host, biology, and more information.

The factsheet for *Cydalis perspectalis* provides detailed information on this caterpillar, including its introduction, host, biology, and more information.

## RESOURCES

### New Organism Alert published on Erythrina gall wasp!

We have also issued a new organism alert for the Erythrina gall wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*), a highly invasive pest that poses a serious threat to Erythrina trees worldwide. You can download the alert poster on the IPSN website, or click on the poster.

Organism alert poster

 [DOWNLOAD THE ALERT POSTER](#)

This form is part of our Organism alert poster series that can be found here: [ORGANISM ALERT SERIES](#).



We highly recommend to stay vigilant and encourage organisations to print and display the alert poster to raise awareness among staff and visitors.

### BE AWARE!

**Erythrina gall wasp - *Quadrastichus erythrinae***

**THE ORGANISM**

The Erythrina gall wasp is a highly invasive pest that threatens Erythrina species globally. It is believed to have originated in East Africa but its current distribution includes the Far East, SE Asia, North and Central America as well as the Caribbean islands.

The life cycle of the EGW is approximately 20 days from egg to adult. This includes egg, larva, pupa and adult stages.

**HOW TO RECOGNISE IT?**

**1. APPEARANCE**

- Adult wasps are typically not visible to the naked eye with females larger than males.
- Eggs are laid in young leaf and stem tissue, inducing gall formation as larvae develop.
- After feeding, larvae pupate within the galls and adults emerge by chewing exit holes.

**2. SYMPTOMS ON PLANTS**

- Gall formation in young leaves, stems, petioles, flowers and seed pods.
- Leaf deformation and defoliation. Infested leaves become curled and deformed leading to defoliation and reduced plant vigour.

**THE PROBLEM**

Gall wasp infestations can cause severe damage to Erythrina species, leading to reduced plant vigour, defoliation and potential death if left untreated.

**DAMAGES TO COLLECTORS:** Severe infestations can result in the loss of unique specimens as well as disruption to local ecosystems due to declines of native Erythrina species populations. Some Erythrina species are highly susceptible, especially *E. variegata*, which are frequently killed by the gall wasp.

**Economic Impact:** This pest poses a serious threat that not only affects botanic gardens and arboreta. Managing infestations require significant resources, including labour and financial investment in pest control measures.

**WHAT TO DO?**

**PREVENTION**

1. **Quarantine:** Implement strict quarantine measures to protect controlled areas.
2. **Responsible sourcing:** Source specimens from reputable suppliers.
3. **Plant choice:** Avoid planting highly susceptible species such as *E. variegata*.

**DETECTION & MANAGEMENT**

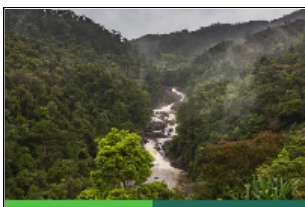
1. **Monitoring:** Regularly monitor the collection (especially newly introduced plants) for early signs of infestation (galls & emergence holes).
2. **Dispose:** Dispose of infested plant material properly to prevent further spread.
3. **Training:** Train garden staff and volunteers to recognise and report Erythrina gall wasp.
4. **Reporting:** Report sightings to local agricultural or environmental authorities.

For more information:  
• Erythrina Gall Wasps: [Data Sheet](#), [Data of Infestations](#)  
• The Erythrina Gall Wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*): [Species Profile](#), [Species Sheet](#), [Species Identification and Management](#)

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## NEWS

### Call for articles



Frontiers in Forests and Global Change  
Pests, Pathogens and Invasions

### Special Issue in Frontiers in Forests and Global Change

As part of our ongoing collaboration with colleagues from USDA/MSU, we are excited to announce a special issue in Frontiers in Forests and Global Change and invite article submissions.

This issue focuses on innovations in plant health monitoring, policy frameworks, climate resilience, public engagement, and collaborative networks using sentinel plants. For full details on article requirements, deadlines, and submission guidelines see below:

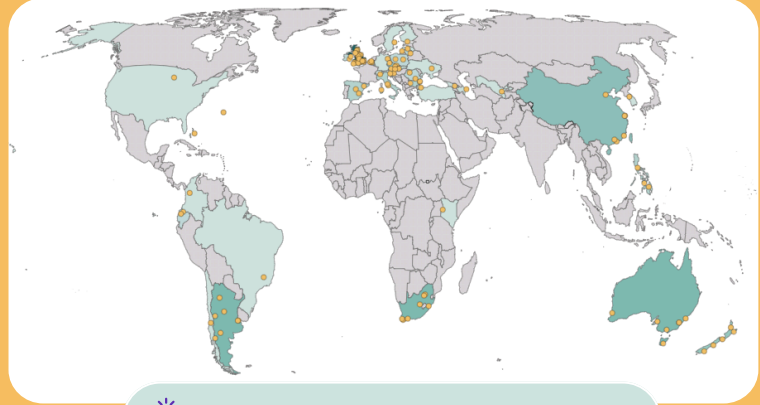
 [SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)



## 100+ MEMBERS WORLD WIDE

A Warm welcome to our newest members from:

- Vrijbroek Park, Belgium
- Pukekura Park, New Zealand
- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Slovakia



[Explore here our member's map](#)



## Blog Posts From Members Around the World

Thanks to the valuable contributions from our members, we are excited to launch a new guest blog section featuring insightful articles from our members on plant health and biosecurity—from emerging pests and pathogens to global management efforts. Check them out on the BGCI website!



[ACCESS THE BLOGS SECTION](#)

**Share your news and stories from your Garden or Arboretum!**

Have a plant health project or garden update to share? We are looking for news and short blog posts from members. To contribute, email us at [itxaso.quintana@bgci.org](mailto:itxaso.quintana@bgci.org) or [lara.salido@bgci.org](mailto:lara.salido@bgci.org).



## BLOG POST - FROM BARBADOS

**Waiting for Mother - A Holistic Approach to Pests (Barbados)**

Explore our guest post from Sharon Cooke from Andromeda Botanic Gardens. Take a tour of the collections with Sharon showcasing their integrative approach to biosecurity practices prioritizing biodiversity and fostering ecological balance.



[Read the Blog Post](#)



## BLOG POST - FROM SPAIN

**Invasive pests break barriers: first records of *Trabutina mannipara* and *Monoxia obesula* in a botanical garden in the centre of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain)**

Read our guest post from Alejandro Santiago González from Botanical Garden of Castilla-La Mancha. Read about how invasive pests and climate change are a new emerging threat to the Mediterranean flora.

[Available in both Spanish and English]



[Read the Blog Post](#)



# PROJECT UPDATES



## MONITORING CANKER STAIN OF PLANE DISEASE IN THE UK

**Call to Action:** We invite gardens across the UK to help us monitor the Canker Stain of Plane, contributing to an early warning system & enhancing preparedness for this serious fungal disease.

In collaboration with Forest Research, we are working with botanic gardens/arboreta and plant collection organisations across the UK to monitor Canker Stain of Plane (*Ceratocystis platani*). While this destructive fungal disease has not yet reached the UK, it has been rapidly spreading from Southern Europe, posing a potential threat the iconic London plane trees.

Currently, 11 organisations have joined us (see the map), but we are keen on covering other parts of the UK to ensure the monitoring network spans as widely as possible.



To participate:



## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIOSECURITY FOLLOW UP MEETING

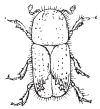


Following the success of the first-ever Biosecurity and Plant Health Forum for the Southeast Asia region in September 2024, we held a follow-up meeting with the forum participants to discuss next steps.

On 27th March, the SEABG and IPSN teams lead a session to shape the future of this initiative, defining the structure of the group and strategizing on how best to take forward the actions outlined in the Post-Forum Action Plan. This meeting provided an opportunity to revisit priorities, strengthen collaborations, and ensure momentum is maintained in addressing plant health and biosecurity challenges in the region.

The engagement and insights from forum participants were instrumental in identifying key needs and opportunities, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.





## END OF THE MONITORING SEASON IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN GARDENS

As part of the general surveillance project for UK host species of interest, New Zealand and Australian gardens have completed their fourth consecutive year of monitoring, targeting: *Quercus* (*Q. robur* and *Q. petraea*), *Fagus sylvatica*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*, and *Rosa* spp.

In early March, we held the summer survey results feedback session, where gardens discussed their findings with our diagnosticians and respective National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs). Some of the findings included:

- European Oak Leaf Miners (*Phyllonorycter messaniella*).
- Powdery mildew and black spot affecting roses.
- A Passion Vine Hopper (*Scolypopa australis*) outbreak observed in New Zealand, which is common there but offers valuable insights for the UK.

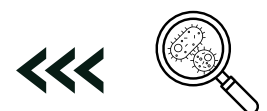


European Oak Leaf Miners in *Fagus sylvatica* and *Quercus petraea*



Passion Vine Hopper adult and nymphs on Rose

## BEXYL PROJECT: SAMPLING EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN GARDENS



After a brief pause, we have resumed monitoring efforts in Latin American and South American gardens for the detection and analysis of *Xylella fastidiosa* (*Xf*), one of the most aggressive bacteria impacting economically significant plants. This is part of the BeXyl project, which aims to improve understanding of *Xf*, its impact, and control.

Seven gardens will start sampling and will be sending plant extracts for laboratory analysis by July. The results will help assess the pathogenicity of *Xf* and determine if certain plants could act as hosts, contributing to the understanding of risks for introduction and spread.



*Xylella fastidiosa* symptoms in Citrus sp., Almond tree, and Grapevine.

# EVENTS

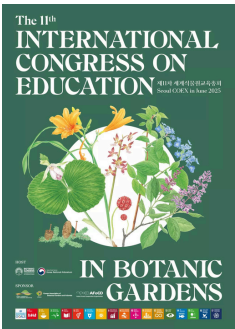
## SEMILAR ON FOREST HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEMS

The IPSN has been cordially invited to present at the IEFC (European Institute of Planted Forest) Annual General Assembly. The event will focus on Forest Health Monitoring, featuring expert presentations and a roundtable discussion where specialists will share insights, debate key issues, and exchange ideas.

The seminar will take place in San Sebastián, Spain, bringing together experts from across Europe. The IPSN looks forward to attending, sharing our experiences, and learning from everyone.



## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION IN BOTANIC GARDENS

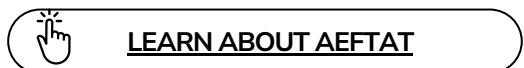


The 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (ICEBG) will be held from June 9 to 13, 2025, in Seoul, South Korea, under the theme "Education for Change: Botanic Gardens' Role in Addressing Global Challenges," focusing on the vital contributions of botanic gardens to education and sustainability amidst global environmental challenges".



## BIOSECURITY AND PLANT HEALTH WORKSHOP AT AEFTAT CONGRESS IN GHANA

The IPSN, in collaboration with regional partners from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, will be hosting a workshop focused on strengthening biosecurity and plant health monitoring to support sustainable plant conservation in Africa. Experts will discuss innovative surveillance methods, community-centered legislative frameworks, and strategies for enhancing regional cooperation. The event will provide a platform for knowledge exchange and exploring collaborative opportunities to tackle the growing threats from invasive species, pests, and diseases. Stay tuned for more details!



## EUROGARD 2025: 10TH EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS



The 10th European Botanic Gardens Congress (Eurogard10) will be hosted at the Botanic Garden of Rome from the 22nd to the 26th of September, 2025. The theme is "Botanic Gardens in the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration".





# We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter!

SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS, INSIGHTS, OR IDEAS WITH  
THE NETWORK BY EMAILING:  
[IPSN-L@LISTSERV.BGCI.ORG](mailto: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](mailto:lara.salido@bgci.org)

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