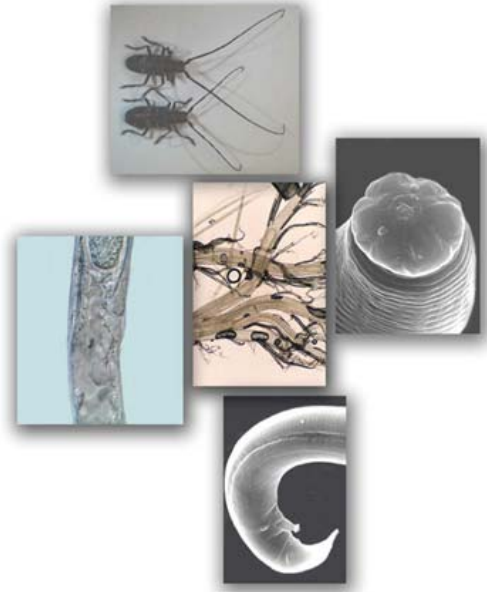


PLANT HEALTH NEWSLETTER

NO. 24 (September 2008)

In this issue

- Pine Wood Nematode in Portugal
- New Requirements for coniferous wood, wood products and bark being exported from Portugal
- Notification to the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service of imports of susceptible material from Portugal
- Remedial action for susceptible material that is found to be infested with PWN.
- Remedial Action for susceptible material that is not accompanied by a plant passport
- Pine Wood Nematode – A Brief Natural History
- Enquiries



Photo's: Close up images of the microscopic Pine Wood Nematode and its vector Monochamus spp (the sawyer beetle). For further details of this forestry pest's natural history see section 6.

This newsletter provides details of new requirements that have been placed on the exports of coniferous wood and wood products from Portugal following amendments to Commission Decision 2006/133/EC.

1. Pine Wood Nematode in Portugal

The presence of Pine Wood Nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, in the Setubal region of Portugal was first reported in 1999 and since then the Portuguese Plant Health Authorities, with EU funding, have been implementing a national eradication programme. The aim of the eradication programme is to restore the EU's pest free status in respect of this forestry pest.

Unfortunately the eradication programme has not been successful and new outbreaks of the pest in a number of other locations have now been confirmed. The Food and Veterinary Organisation (FVO) of the European Commission has undertaken a number of investigative missions since the pest was first confirmed, and their reports are published on the EU website at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm

2. New Requirements for coniferous wood and wood products being exported from Portugal

In order to safeguard other territories against PWN, and to protect Community trade interests in relation to third countries, the export of coniferous wood (other than in the form of chips, particles, wood waste or scrap – see below) and bark from all parts of Portugal to other member States and third countries has been prohibited unless this material has undergone appropriate heat treatment or, in the case of newly manufactured wood packaging material, whether or not in use, has been heat treated and marked in accordance with ISPM 15 "Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade".

Coniferous wood in the form of chips, particles, wood waste or scrap obtained in whole or part from these conifers must have undergone an appropriate fumigation treatment in order to ensure freedom from live PWN's.

Traceability of consignments of coniferous wood and bark, other than wood packaging material, must be ensured by attaching a plant passport.

These requirements are set out in Commission Decision 2006/133/EC, as last amended by Decision 2008/684/EC.

3. Notification to the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service of imports of susceptible material from Portugal

In order to ensure that the new measures are being properly implemented, importers of coniferous wood, wood products and bark are being asked to notify the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service of imports of susceptible material from Portugal. The notification should be made to the Forestry Commission using the attached form which can be used immediately. On receipt of the notification the FC's Plant Health Service will review the plant passport information and check for evidence that the material has been heat treated by an accredited source in Portugal. If appropriate we will arrange for a local plant health inspector to physically inspect the material which may involve sampling for laboratory analysis to ensure that it is free from PWN.

4. Remedial action for susceptible material that is found to be infested with PWN

If in the event that the material is found to be infested with PWN, the plant health service will, after consulting the person responsible for the material, issue a statutory notice requiring one of the following remedial action options –

- destruction by burning
- deep burial at a landfill site
- heat treatment to a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for 30 minutes
- return to the supplier

Due to the limitations on the use of methyl bromide as set out in The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 - fumigation will not be permitted as a remedial treatment option.

5. Remedial action for susceptible wood that is not accompanied by a plant passport or not ISPM15 compliant

Provided that the susceptible material landed in Great

Britain from Portugal is found to be free from the presence of PWN no remedial action will be taken against

the material which is not accompanied with a plant passport or is not ISPM15 compliant. The latter point may apply to a consignment of newly manufactured wooden pallets for example .

However, in the case of susceptible timber material which is intended for use in the manufacture of ISPM15 compliant wood packaging material permission to use the material for this purpose will be refused until proof of heat treatment is made available..

6. Pine Wood Nematode – A Brief Natural History

Pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, is a microscopic nematode worm that is native to North America where it lives mainly on dying or dead trees and rarely affects healthy living trees. It is carried from tree to tree by longhorn beetles in the genus *Monochamus* (the Sawyer beetle).

Emerging *Monochamus* spp. carry the nematodes in the tracheae. The beetles then feed on the twigs of a healthy pine, causing wounds that nematodes may exploit by leaving the insects through its spiracles and entering the feeding wound. In a susceptible host, the nematodes mature, mate and reproduce in the host where they feed on the parenchyma cells. When trees are susceptible and average temperatures are high (July/August isotherm > 24-26°C) nematodes introduced into the crowns of trees may enter the xylem (water conducting vessels), breed and, by increases in numbers and production of a toxin, eventually kill the tree. Tree death can be rapid and give rise to characteristic wilting in which needles redden within a few weeks of nematode introduction. This wilting of the tree induced by the nematodes, attracts wood-boring beetles that will vector the next generation of nematodes to new trees.

Pine Wilt Syndrome



Day 1

Day 5

Day 14

The beetles also transmit PWN to dead or dying trees during egg laying (oviposition) by the females. These nematodes feed on the blue stain fungi that are carried by bark beetles and other wood-boring beetles.

PWN has established in a number of new locations worldwide and has resulted in extensive tree mortality in these new locations. It is now a serious pest in Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan and, in 1999, was also found in Portugal. One of the strategies adopted by the EU is to require Member States to carry out surveys to determine whether the nematode is present in their territories and also to assess whether either the nematode or its vector (*Monochamus* - the sawyer beetle) is being carried to the EU on imported wood.

The Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service has been performing annual surveys in forests throughout Great Britain since 1999 to monitor for the presence of PWN and to date no evidence of the forestry pest has been found.

In Portugal, the only known vector is *Monochamus galloprovincialis*. There are no *Monochamus* spp. in the UK.

The requirement to heat treat wood of conifers prior to it entering the EU from the PWN countries ie Canada, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and the USA remains unchanged and can be found in on our website ([www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCPH001.pdf/\\$FILE/FCPH001.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCPH001.pdf/$FILE/FCPH001.pdf))

7. Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Manager –

Steve Mears, Regional Manager (South) – Tel/Fax: 01507 328275 Mobile 07831 204324 timber imports to Humber, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Thamesport, Tilbury and Southampton, The Wash Ports, South West England, Bristol Channel and South Wales

Dave Tracy, Regional Manager (North) Tel: 01546 602832 Mobile: 0777 180 8513 Fax:0131-3146148 timber imports to Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

Ian Brownlee, Operations Manager Tel: 0131-314-6480 Mobile 07831 159014 Fax 0131-314-6148

Issued By: The Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Tel: 0131-314-6414 **Fax:** 0131-314-6148 **E-mail:** plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk **Website:** www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth

'Protecting and Expanding Britain's Forests and Woodlands and Increasing their Value to Society and the Environment'



NOTIFICATION OF THE IMPORT OF CONIFEROUS WOOD, WOOD PRODUCTS AND BARK FROM PORTUGAL

To: Forestry Commission
Plant Health Service
Edinburgh

Fax No: **0131-314-6148**

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Company Name: | | Contact : | Tel No: | |
| Name of Vessel | | ETA | Break Bulk | Container No. |
| Location (Port of Entry or Registered Traders Premises etc) and date available for Inspection: | | | | |
| No. of Packs or Pieces: | Cubic Metres | Species of Timber | Distinguishing Marks: | |
| Plant Passport Yes/No | Plant Passport Number: | | | |
| ISPM15 Mark Yes/No | Unique ISPM15 Reference Number: | | | |

Plant Health Inspector's Notes

| | |
|--|--|
| Sample extracted for laboratory Analysis: Yes/No | Form Ref No: _____ |
| Evidence of Susceptible Material being - | |
| Heat Treated Yes/No | Details: _____ |
| Fumigated: Yes/No | Details: _____ |
| Remedial Action Required: Yes/No | Option: destruction, heat treatment, deep burial, return to supplier |

Forestry Commission, Plant Health Service, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT
Tel: 0131 314 6414 Fax: 0131 314 6148