



1987 – 2012 – 25 Years
Jubilee Year

DWP Harvesting
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DWP Harvesting Lunchtime Debate

12 noon – 2pm, 24th October, 2012

CATASTROPHE or HEARSAY?

How much of a threat do Pests and Diseases pose to Scottish Forests and Woodlands?

The Forestry Commission Scotland table on Page 2 shows that Scotland's forests and woodlands currently have to contend with at least 24 ESTABLISHED PESTS AND DISEASES, 9 RECENT ONES and there is AT LEAST 14 OTHERS POTENTIALLY ON THE NEAR HORIZON.

CLIMATE CHANGE may place some of our trees and woodlands under increasing stress, making them more vulnerable to attack from pest and diseases. INCREASED GLOBAL TRADE, POPULATION MOBILITY and TOURISM play their part in introducing more pest and diseases into our forests and woodlands in recent years.

DWP's Lunchtime Debate is organised to highlight this important topic as follows:

1. WHAT ARE THE PESTS AND DISEASES AND HOW MUCH OF A THREAT DO THEY POSE?

- a. DR STEPHEN WOODWARD of the SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY will give us an overview of the pest and diseases that are threatening our Scottish forests and woodlands.
- b. JOACHIM BOEHM of FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND will give us a short talk on a disease at the forefront of these threats, namely DOTHISTROMA NEEDLE BLIGHT (DNB). He will also give us a short insight into the steps being taken to minimise this threat to the National Forest Estate.

DWP HARVESTING DIRECTOR AND MANAGER will be available to make comment on what restrictions are currently in place for pest management as affecting DWP Operations in NE Scotland.

2. IS THERE A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR OWNERS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PESTS AND DISEASES AFFECTING THEIR FORESTS AND WOODLANDS?

Under ARTICLE 40 OF THE PLANT HEALTH (FORESTRY) ORDER 2005 there are legal obligations to report pests and diseases listed in its Schedules 1 & 2 (or any other pest/disease not normally present in Great Britain and which are likely to be injurious to trees in Great Britain). In the first instance this would be to the FORESTRY COMMISSION PLANT HEALTH SERVICE on email plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or Tel: 0131 314 6214.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FELLING LICENCES OR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MEASURES woodland managers are required to comply with the principles of sustainable forest management as set out in the UK FORESTRY STANDARD. For tree health the Standard states: *“Managers should be aware of risks posed by pests and disease, be vigilant in checking the condition of their forests and take reasonable measure to combat threats to tree health.”*

FOR THOSE SEEKING OR MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION AGAINST THE UK WOODLAND ASSURANCE STANDARD (3RD EDITION) Section 5.2.1, this requires that *“Tree health shall be monitored and results shall be incorporated into management planning together with measures to prevent the introduction and onward spread of tree pests and diseases according to guidance arising from national monitoring of plant health.”*


3. WHAT STEPS SHOULD OWNERS OF SCOTLAND’S FORESTS AND WOODLANDS TAKE IF THEY SUSPECT THEY HAVE A PEST OR DISEASE IN THEIR FORESTS OR WOODLANDS?

Forestry Research’s Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service, <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-5UWEY6> should be the initial port of call if a disease is suspected. They can direct you to the relevant authority if appropriate. General info and advice is usually free of charge, thereafter there is a standard charge for a Disease Diagnosis of £ 40 by telephone and £ 70 in writing. The Diagnostic Services Report form, inclusive of contact details, is supplied here: [Diagnostic service report form \(MS Word®\)](#).

4. WHAT HELP IS OUT THERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC

The good news is that Forestry Research is very proactive in this respect. As detailed on their website <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-629KVZ> they provide free events around Scotland on Forest Health, with some events devoted to a particular pest. If DWP Members are unsure of where to go in Forest Research to get questions answered the first port of call should be Steve Penny, the Research Liaison Officer for Scotland, steve.penny@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, Tel. 0131 445 6989, Mob. 07808 900331.

A pack of useful and relevant information leaflets are enclosed with this pack – as kindly provided by Hugh Clayden, Policy Adviser on Tree Health for Forestry Commission Scotland. Hugh is also happy to field general queries about tree health and can be contacted at: hugh.clayden@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; Mob. 07885 592 014.

 Forestry Commission Scotland Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba			Same old..... or life changing?		
Established	Recent	On the horizon	Established	Recent	On the horizon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hylobius abietis</i> • Pine beauty • Pine looper • Larch canker • Dutch elm disease • Oak leaf roller • Winter moth • <i>Phytophthora alni</i> • <i>Phytophthora cambivora</i> • <i>Phytophthora syringae</i> • <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> • <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> • <i>Lophodermium spp</i> • <i>Brunchorstia pinea</i> • <i>Lophodermella spp</i> • <i>Ramichloridium pini</i> • <i>Sphaeropsis sapinea</i> • <i>Anisogramma virgultorum</i> • <i>Marssonina betulae</i> • <i>Elatobium abietinum</i> • <i>Armillaria spp</i> • <i>Heterobasidium annosum</i> • <i>Tomicus piniperda</i> • <i>Ips cembrae/Ceratocystis aricola</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dothistroma needle blight</i> • <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> • <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> • Horse chestnut bleeding canker/ leaf miner • Pine tree lappet moth • Great spruce bark beetle (<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>) • <i>Phytophthora lateralis</i> • <i>Phytophthora austrocedrae</i> • Ash dieback (<i>Chalara fraxinea</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute oak decline • Oak processionary moth • Western conifer seed bug • Gypsy moth • Asian longhorn beetle • Sweet chestnut blight (<i>Cryphonectra parasitica</i>) <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinewood nematode • <i>Ips typographus</i> • Pine pitch canker • Pine processionary moth • Citrus longhorn beetle <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spruce budworm • Emerald ash borer • Bronze birch borer 			

To be held in main building at DEESIDE ACTIVITY PARK