



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Biosecurity on sites served with a Statutory Plant Health Notice for *Phytophthora ramorum* on larch

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd



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Ramorum on larch, caused by the water mould *Phytophthora ramorum*, is now well established in Scotland, so eradication is no longer possible. However, slowing the rate of spread and trying to restrict the scale of the disease is still a priority. This is in order to minimise financial losses by keeping within the capacity of the forest industry to harvest larch timber, and to reduce negative impacts on the landscape and local communities. Removing the main source of new infections by acting quickly to fell affected larch is by far the most important thing we can do to tackle this devastating disease. Even once infected trees are felled, *Phytophthora ramorum* can still be spread from site to site, woodland to woodland, in mud and plant material stuck to vehicles, machinery or footwear. Implementing sensible forest hygiene measures will help to reduce that risk.

What you can do to avoid spreading *Phytophthora ramorum*

Implementing the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard¹, including good site management and timely road maintenance, will significantly reduce the excessively wet and muddy conditions favoured by *Phytophthora ramorum*. That, and a responsible approach to other forest hygiene measures, such as regularly cleaning boots, equipment, vehicles and machinery, will help protect your (and other people's) woodlands from this disease and a wide range of other potentially damaging pests and diseases.

Required biosecurity actions on sites issued with a Statutory Plant Health Notice for *Phytophthora ramorum*

Staff and contractors working on the site must be made aware of these responsibilities before commencing operations and reminded of them regularly during the course of their work. Keep a record of these conversations in site diaries. Appropriate cleaning facilities must be provided.

Footwear, clothing, personal equipment, hand tools and motorised tools

- Clean and then disinfect footwear before leaving the site. This can be as simple as using a bucket of water and a stiff brush to remove mud and plant material and then spraying footwear with an approved disinfectant.* Make sure run-off from cleaning and spraying does not enter watercourses.
- Clean any hand tools, motorised tools or other personal equipment used before leaving the site, then spray with an approved disinfectant. Make sure run-off from cleaning and spraying does not enter watercourses.
- Brush or wipe any plant material or excessive mud off your outer clothing before leaving the site.

*Approved disinfectants which are proven to work against *Phytophthora ramorum* include: Propellar (which does not cause rust on metal tools) and Cleankill Sanitising Spray (which does not damage fabric and glue on footwear and outerwear). Always follow the guidance in the Safety Data Sheets for each product. Broad-spectrum farm disinfectants are not effective against *Phytophthora ramorum*. Surfaces need to be cleaned before applying disinfectant in order for it to be effective.

¹ <https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland>

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Vehicles and machinery

- Do not bring cars or vans onto the site unless strictly necessary, and park on hard standing areas that are as free of mud and plant material as possible.
- Any vehicles or machines that leave the forest road e.g. harvesters and forwarders, as well as civil engineering machines used to create and maintain roads, represent a high risk of spreading *Phytophthora ramorum* spores carried in mud and plant material. Cleaning of these is required before use at another site.
- Vehicles and machines for which cleaning is required must be pressure washed before use at another site (including other *Phytophthora ramorum* sites, as this helps reduce the risk of different strains of *Phytophthora ramorum* combining and producing even more damaging strains). Focus on removing mud and plant material from areas where this is likely to build up e.g. tracks, tyres, wheels, mud flaps, sills, wheel arches, guarded areas, harvester heads and forwarder grapples.
- Clean vehicles and machines on site wherever possible, following water regulations and guidelines: <http://www.confor.org.uk/resources/forestry-water-scotland/on-site-tools/>
- If it is not possible to fully comply with water regulations and guidelines at this site, then vehicles and machines can be transported for cleaning at a SEPA-approved designated area (including commercial garage facilities). See: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1414/gpp-13-v2-plussepa-plusniea-plusnrw.pdf>
- Vehicles that do not leave the forest road, including HGVs, represent a relatively low risk of spreading *Phytophthora ramorum* spores, so cleaning of these vehicles is not required before leaving the site. Nevertheless, it is good practice to clean such vehicles regularly, particularly if they have been driven on muddy, poorly maintained forest roads.

Site layout and maintenance

- Ensure roads are well-maintained throughout the three year period of the SPHN.
- Comply with the UK Forestry Standard's requirements and guidelines for water management.
- Place appropriate biosecurity information signage at site entrances and exits. Posters are available for download here: <https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/tree-health/tree-pests-and-diseases/phytophthora-ramorum>
- Keep stacking areas clean and free of debris. Where feasible, avoid forwarders having to track on forest roads, as tracking mud and plant material onto the road will increase the risk of spreading disease for all vehicles using the road.

Find more information and guidance on forest biosecurity on the [Scottish Forestry website](#).

Remember - always clean these before use at another site:

- Footwear
- Tools
- Off-road machinery and vehicles