

Pest Alert: Ramorum dieback (*Phytophthora ramorum*) in wider environment



Figs. 1 - 5 from left to right: A larch tree showing dieback. A close up of larch twigs with needle blight. A mature beech tree with significant bleeding cankers. A *Rhododendron* with leaf lesions and starting to decline. A bilberry with typical 'zebra stripe' lesions on the twigs. Figs. 1 - 4 © Forest Research. Fig. 5 © Crown copyright courtesy of Fera Science Ltd.

- *Phytophthora ramorum* is a serious fungus-like pathogen that damages a wide range of trees and ornamentals and is a **significant threat to our woodlands, parks and gardens.**
- **It is most frequently found on *Larix* (larch) and *Rhododendron*** in the wider environment.
- In addition, it infects a **wide range of hosts** including *Abies* (fir), *Castanea* (chestnut), *Fagus* (beech), *Ilex* (holly), *Magnolia*, *Pseudotsuga* (Douglas fir), *Quercus* (oak) and *Tsuga* (hemlock). Heathland plants including *Calluna* (heather) and *Vaccinium* (bilberry) are also susceptible. Most tree hosts only become infected when close to infected larch and *Rhododendron*.
- Symptoms on broadleaf trees include **brown/ black 'bleeding cankers' on tree trunks** and/ or brown leaf lesions. On conifers, it includes **needle blight**, shoot dieback, trunk cankers, dieback and tree mortality.
- Symptoms on *Rhododendron* include a **dagger-shaped blackening that extends along the midrib**, stem lesions, leaf wilt and **dieback**.
- Symptoms on bilberry include stem lesions ('zebra striping'), leaf necrosis and dieback.
- *Phytophthora ramorum* is **spread by water, aerial dispersal from mist and rain, and soil on tools, vehicles and boots**. Symptoms are likely to show after periods of heavy rain.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

For finds in the wider environment (non-forestry):

For **England and Wales**, contact your **local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector**, or the **PHSI headquarters**, in **York**:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For **Scotland**, contact the **Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit**:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For **Northern Ireland**, contact the **DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch**:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For finds on trees:

For **GB**, please use Tree Alert: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

For **Northern Ireland**, please use TreeCheck: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>