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PHC Bulletin Newsletter



Updating you on recent activities of the Plant Health Centre

Issue 11, December 2022

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Puzzle Time!

PHC News



Welcome to Issue 11

Welcome to the December edition of our news bulletin. In this issue, in addition to recent developments on plant health in Scotland, and since it's nearly time to 'down tools' for the year, we have made a wee crossword to distract you - but it's all plant health related questions, so it still counts as work, right?

Plant Health Centre at the IPHC

The first International Plant Health Conference was held in September this year, at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London. The conference brought together more than 500 policymakers, academics and experts from more than 74 countries to discuss global scientific, technical and regulatory issues related to plant health aiming to contribute to a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, amongst other objectives. The Plant Health Centre Directorate attended, and participated in the "working together to protect UK Plant Health and Biosecurity stall. It was a fantastic opportunity to interact with such a diverse and global community and we look forward to the next IPHC, wherever it may be!

Recordings of the speeches and presentations are available online here: [International Plant Health Conference - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](https://www.ippc.int/)

*Interception of *Ips cembrae* in the west of Scotland*

In October, Scottish Forestry announced the interception of a small number (5) of *Ips cembrae* bark beetles in three pheromone traps located in the west of Scotland conifer bark beetle Pest Free Area (PFA) - one near Oban, one near Invergarry and three north east of Fort William. These bark beetles, native to Europe, affect larch trees, and as a precaution a temporary cessation of movement of larch to the Island of Ireland was announced until further surveillance is completed.

For further information on this interception, please visit the Scottish Forestry website: [Scottish Forestry - Bark beetles intercepted in west of Scotland](#)

New Publication

Since our last news bulletin, we have published the final report and policy summary from another Plant Health Centre funded project "PHC2020/05 - Perceptions Of Pest Risk And Differences In IPM Uptake By Arable Farmers And Agronomists In Scotland". Delivered by Henry Creissen and Elliot Meador at SRUC, the project surveyed 267 arable and mixed arable/livestock farmers and 26 agronomists to collect information on currently perceived invertebrate pest and disease threats in Scotland, the level of IPM uptake, and the information sources they relied upon. The aim was to identify IPM information networks,

to make it possible to improve the flow of information to farmers by targeting their preferred information sources, with downstream consequences of better informed farmers and agronomists making better IPM decisions.

Key findings from the work included:

- The agronomist group/company had the biggest influence on farmers IPM score.
- Many other factors were found to influence IPM uptake including farmer age, location and size of enterprise.
- Agronomists and farmers acquire IPM knowledge from a range of information sources the most popular being their peers, research organisations, farming press, levy boards and professional memberships.
- The biggest barrier to further IPM uptake was 'time and effort required to increase knowledge of IPM' for farmers.

The research also identified a number of ways in which information flows could be improved to increase IPM uptake including developing a knowledge transfer and exchange strategy for both farmers and agronomists that utilises the most effective outlets such as farming press, levy boards, research organisations and professional memberships. Please see the full report and associated policy summary to read all the outcomes and recommendations from this very interesting project: [Perceptions of pest risk and differences in IPM uptake by arable farmers and agronomists in Scotland | Plant Health Centre](#)

New projects

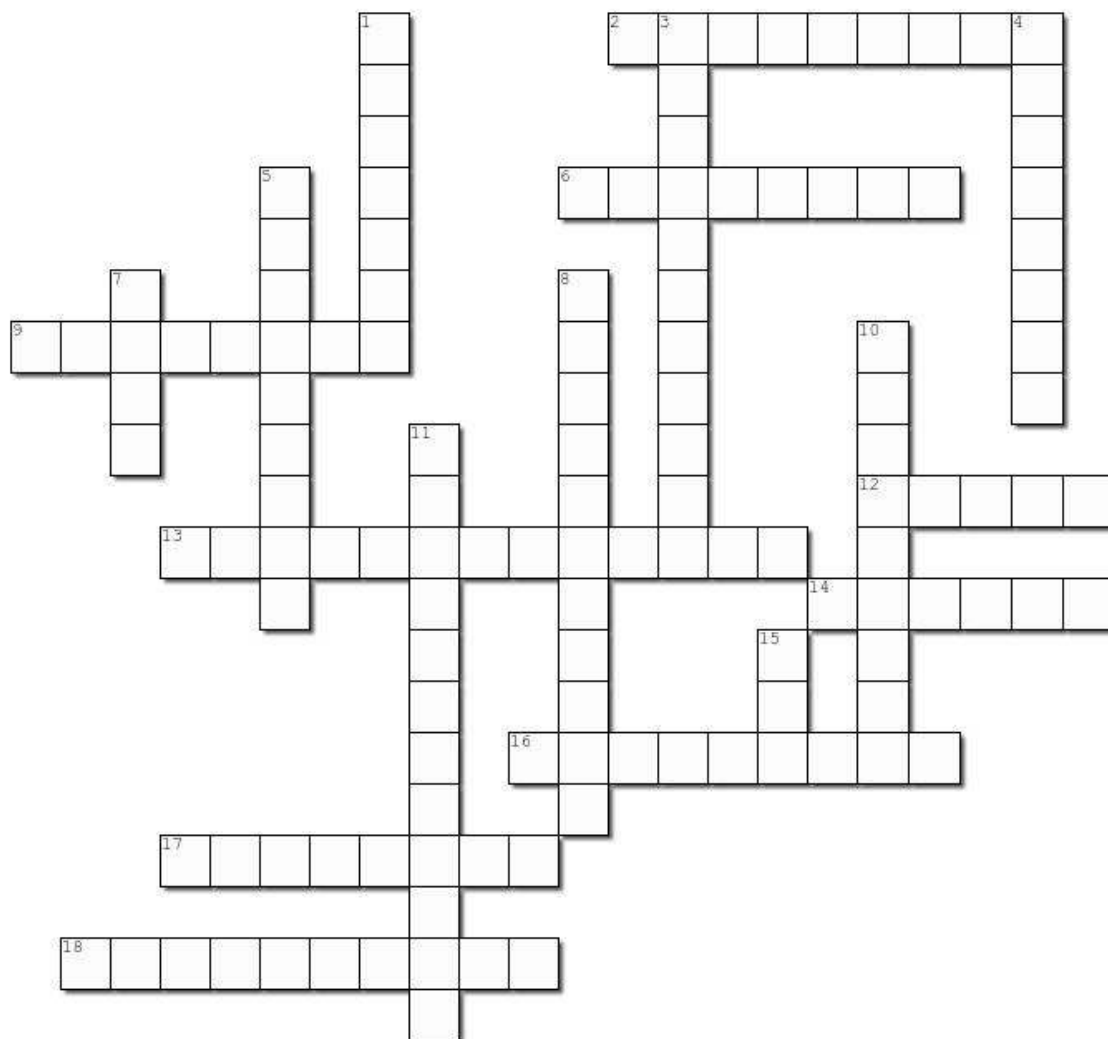
We recently advertised three project calls: *PHC2022/02: Understanding farmer / agronomist perceptions for decision making in crop health and the impact of that on key metrics such as IPM scores and pesticide usage*; *PHC2022/03: Potential of biocontrol for the sustainable management of plant diseases in Scotland: Opportunities and barriers*; and a third which was our first open-ended call, titled *PHC2022/04: Enhancing preparedness against pests and diseases: plugging evidence gaps for Scotland*. We received many high-quality applications, and we would like to thank everyone who put time and care into their submissions. It's a little too soon to say who will be delivering each of these, so look out for this information in our next bulletin!

As always please don't hesitate to get in touch with us (details at the end of this email) if you have any issue around plant health in Scotland that you would like to highlight, or questions that you have about our work. Finally, we hope that everyone has an enjoyable festive period, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – see you all in 2023!

-Sonia Humphris, Plant Health Centre Manager

Puzzle Time!





Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 2. Acid recognised as a signal in Systemic Acquired Resistance
- 6. Mixture considered to be the first fungicide
- 9. Vectors of Dutch Elm Disease (Genus)
- 12. Caused Dancing Plagues in the Middle Ages, possibly (Genus)
- 13. Moth caterpillars that do the conga on oak or pine
- 14. Disease that swept banana plantations in the early 20th century
- 16. Phytophthora species responsible for potato late blight
- 17. Considered a delicacy when infecting corn (Genus)
- 18. Better than cure (not the band)

Down

- 1. 8th plague of Egypt was aimed at the plants
- 3. Specialised fungal infection structures
- 4. Regrettably introduced to Australia to control crop pest beetles (4,4)
- 5. Festive Hemiparasite
- 7. He postulated sometimes
- 8. Resistance hypothesis developed by Flor (4,3,4)
- 10. Scottish seed potato biosecurity scheme (4,5)
- 11. Recreational hallucinogen precursor derived from Dancing Plague question (8,4)
- 15. Insecticide banned for bioaccumulation and biomagnification

As a light-hearted conclusion to this bulletin we have put together a quick Plant Health Crossword for your amusement. See if you can complete it without googling!

You can also print this as a PDF if you would like to put pen to paper: [Crossword \(planthealthcentre.scot\)](https://www.planthealthcentre.scot/crossword)



Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

The Plant Health Centre is a virtual centre of expertise funded by Scottish Government through RESAS (Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division) to help tackle plant health challenges for Scotland



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