

24/07/2019

Ongoing controls to protect against the tree pest oak processionary moth

Action: Chemical spraying of oak trees

Landscapers, nurseries, landowners and woodland managers are being urged to take action after the Plant Health Service intercepted a number of cases of [oak processionary moth caterpillars](#) on trees imported from the continent.

Anyone who has received oak trees imported from the continent should urgently check their trees for OPM, and nurseries should spray trees that they might be holding as stock with the pesticide Deltamethrin as a precautionary measure to stop this pest spreading. It is vital these trees are checked and sprayed now to minimise the spread of this damaging tree pest and protect the health of our oak trees.

The majority of the UK is designated as a protected zone, although OPM is an established pest in London and surrounding areas. A government programme has been in place since 2012 to minimise the size, spread and impact.

To address recent interceptions, strengthened measures on the import of most species of oak into Scotland were introduced to protect trees from the threat of OPM on Tuesday 16th July. Strengthened measures in England and Wales have also been introduced.

This document is intended to help nurseries in Scotland find out more about spraying their oak trees with the pesticide Deltamethrin (trade names Bandu or Decis). Further information and resources can be found below.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Method

All oak trees on site need to be sprayed with a product called Deltamethrin (trade name Bandu or Decis).

One litre will be enough to treat approximately 500 trees and can be applied with a knapsack sprayer. PA1 and PA6 operator certificates would be expected.

The whole of the oak tree needs to be sprayed. Some larger trees might need a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) to cover the whole of the tree.

A supplier is provided below. If you cannot get Deltamethrin or have any urgent enquiries, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit (SG-HMU) by emailing hort.marketing@gov.scot.

Always use Deltamethrin in line with the instructions on the product label.

Supplier

Barrettine Environmental Health, Crown Way, Caxton Industrial Park, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8XJ.

Safety

If you suspect OPM, you should not attempt to touch or move infected material yourself as the nests and caterpillars can pose some risks to human health. For more on how to identify OPM, visit the [Forest Research website \(www.forestresearch.gov.uk/OPM\)](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/OPM).

Environmental considerations

Care must be taken when using Deltamethrin, on or near flowering plants as well as rivers, streams, ponds or other water bodies. Always check the product label for full information.

Spotting OPM

Pictures of caterpillars and nests can be found at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/opm. If you spot OPM caterpillars or nests on your trees, please report it via the online portal Tree Alert (<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/>) and contact SG-HMU (hort.marketing@gov.scot).

Further information

- Tools and resources can be found at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/opm.
- To report sightings of tree pests and diseases, use the TreeAlert online portal: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>.
- For guidance on importing trees and plants to Scotland from the EU visit: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/plants/movement-of-plants-and-plant-products/>
- To find out more about plant health Protected Zones visit: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/resources/plant-health-protected-zones/>
- The Statutory Instrument in Scotland introducing new import measures can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2019/242/introduction/made>.

Enquiries

In Scotland, contact SG-HMU (hort.marketing@gov.scot) to report suspicion of a quarantine plant pest or disease, or for advice and guidance on plant health regulations.