

# Scotland's Plant Health Conference – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AS

**09:30**      [Registration and Tea/Coffee](#)

**10:15**      **Welcome:** Gerry Saddler, Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland

**Chairperson for Session 1:** Mariella Marzano (Forest Research)

**10:20**      **Update on Plant Health Centre Activities 2023-24**  
Ian Toth (Plant Health Centre)

**10:40**      **Bacterial Plant Diseases Programme**  
James McDonald (BiFoR)

**11:00**      **Scottish Plant Health Strategy**  
Workshop with Scottish Government and the Plant Health Centre

**12:00**      [Lunch \(Stratosphere Level 3\)](#)

**Chairperson for Session 2:** Archie Gibson (Agrico UK Ltd)

**13:00**      **Forest Adaptation and Resilience**  
James Nott (Scottish Forestry)

**13:20**      **Series of Quickfire (5 min) Presentations from PHC Funded Projects**

- Interdisciplinary Analysis of Plant Health Threats to Arable and Horticultural Crops in Scotland (Luz Maria Lozada, James Hutton Institute)
- Assessing Long-Term Resilience of Scottish Sitka Spruce Forests to Climate Change and Novel Pests: *Ips Typographus* as a Case Study (Adam Kleczkowski, University of Strathclyde)
- Improved Preparedness for Phytophthora Prevention in Scotland (Ruth Mitchell, James Hutton Institute)
- The Impact of Agricultural Policy Reforms on Plant Health Risks in Scotland: Guidance on Maximising Plant Health Benefits (Neil Havis, SRUC)
- Assessment And Mitigation of the Threat Posed by Root Knot Nematodes to Potato Production in The UK (James Price, James Hutton Institute)
- The Impact of Peat-Free Growing Media and the Emergence of Sciarid Flies (*Sciaridae*) (Arthy Surendran, SRUC)
- Accurate Potato Virus Forecasts: Developing New Models to Guide Sustainable Management of Potato Crops in Scotland (Pete Skelsey, James Hutton Institute)

**14.00**      **Q&A for Quickfire Presentations**

**14.10** **Poster Session with tea and coffee ([Ozone and Stratosphere Level 3](#))**

**Chairperson for Session 3:** Kim Davie (Scottish Government)

**15.00** **Impact of Pests and Diseases on the Production of Soft Fruit**  
Louise Gamble (James Hutton Institute)

**15.20** **The Centre for Forest Protection:  
A Collaboration Focused on the Future of Forest and Tree Health**  
Louise Gathercole (Centre for Forest Protection)

**15.40** **Royal Society of Biology Plant Health Activities**  
Susan Ross (SASA, Royal Society of Biology Representative)

**15.50** **Ministerial Closing of the Event:** Mr Jim Fairlie MSP

**16:00** **[Depart](#)**

## Poster Presentations (14:10 to 14:50)

### **Interdisciplinary analysis of plant health threats to arable and horticultural crops in Scotland**

Daniel Bebbber<sup>1</sup>, Luz Maria Lozada<sup>2</sup> & Alison Karley<sup>2</sup> (<sup>1</sup>The University of Exeter, <sup>2</sup>James Hutton Institute)

### **Plant Healthy Certification Scheme - taking a proactive approach to plant biosecurity**

Alistair Yeomans<sup>1</sup> & Malcolm Catlin<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>Plant Health Alliance)

### **Assessing long-term resilience of Scottish Sitka spruce forests to climate change and novel pests: *Ips typographus* as a case study**

Adam Kleczkowski<sup>1</sup>, Max Blake<sup>2</sup>, Maria Rodrigues<sup>1</sup> & Sonja Steinke<sup>2</sup>, (<sup>1</sup>University of Strathclyde, <sup>2</sup>Forest Research)

### **Improved preparedness for *Phytophthora* prevention in Scotland**

David Cooke<sup>1</sup>, Ruth Mitchell<sup>1</sup>, Louise Barwell<sup>2</sup> & Bethan Purse<sup>2</sup> (<sup>1</sup>James Hutton Institute and <sup>2</sup>UKCEH)

### **The Forest Trapping Network: Year 1 of a new surveillance method for invasive forest pest species in the United Kingdom**

Katherine Lester<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Kendall<sup>1</sup> & Alice Walker<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>Forest Research)

### **The impact of agricultural policy reforms on plant health risks in Scotland: Guidance on maximising plant health benefits**

Kairsty Topp<sup>1</sup>, Matt Elliot<sup>2</sup>, Lorna Cole<sup>1</sup> & Neil Havis<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>SRUC, <sup>2</sup>RBGE)

### **Assessment and mitigation of the threat posed by Root Knot Nematodes to potato production in the UK**

(James Price<sup>1</sup>, John Jones<sup>1</sup> & Gaynor McKenzie<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>James Hutton Institute)

### **Accelerating your Agri-Tech ambition**

Andy Evans<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>UK Agri-Tech Centre)

### **The impact of peat-free growing media and the emergence of Sciarid flies (*Sciaridae*)**

Arthy Surendran<sup>1</sup>, & Matt Elliot<sup>2</sup> (<sup>1</sup>SRUC, <sup>2</sup>RBGE)

### **Guarding Scotland's Plant Health: Insights from SASA's annual surveys on *Xylella fastidiosa***

Aleksandra Duchnowska<sup>1</sup> & Alan McCluskey<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>SASA)

### **Accurate potato virus forecasts: Developing new models to guide sustainable management of potato crops in Scotland**

Pete Skelsey<sup>1</sup>, Kyran Maloney<sup>2</sup>, Kerry Leslie<sup>2</sup> & Alison Karley<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>James Hutton Institute, <sup>2</sup>SAC Consulting)

### **Understanding the threat of *Curreya pithyophila* to Caledonian Scots pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*)**

Sarah Green<sup>1</sup> & Joanne Taylor<sup>2</sup> (<sup>1</sup>Forest Research, <sup>2</sup>RBGE)

### **Beyond the single pathogen – single disease paradigm: does the microbial community influence susceptibility to a fungal pathogen in Scots pine?**

Beth Moore<sup>1</sup>, Annika Perry<sup>2</sup>, Stephen Cavers<sup>2</sup>, V Anne Smith<sup>3</sup>, Sundeep Kaur<sup>4</sup>, Bridget Crampton<sup>4</sup> & Sue Jones<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>The James Hutton Institute, <sup>2</sup>CEH, <sup>3</sup>University of St Andrews, <sup>4</sup>Forest Research)

### **Scoping the risk of bulk aggregate movement into and within Scotland**

Matt Elliot<sup>1</sup> and David Knott<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>RBGE)

### **Developments in plant health of container grown native trees**

Rodney Shearer<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup>Elsoms Trees Ltd)