

TURNING OVER A CLEAN LEAF

How to protect trees from pests and diseases when working in woodlands and forests

- 1 Nursery stock** should be clean and free from pests and diseases
 - Get to know your supplier. Specify in your plant order, provenance, size, age of plant and where it will be grown
 - On arrival, check that the young trees are healthy and free from pests and diseases
 - Check any documentation carefully and keep accurate records of everything you have bought and planted

Avoid spreading pests or diseases from site to site

- 2 People**
 - When leaving the site remove plant material and soil from boots – use disinfectant if you have visited a high risk site
 - Carry a simple ‘hygiene’ kit for this purpose (water, container, brush and disinfectant)
- 3 Vehicles and equipment**
 - Whenever possible stick to well-made tracks whilst driving through the forest
 - Where possible clean soil and plant material from forest vehicles and equipment before leaving the site and visiting other woodlands
 - Clean and disinfect equipment such as chainsaws, harvester heads, sample probes and spades
- 4 Timber**
 - Only move timber if it’s free from pests and diseases and if required, has been issued with an appropriate movement licence
 - Clear loose plant debris and soil from timber prior to leaving site



- 6 Regular monitoring** helps you spot problems early and take prompt remedial action
 - Ensure all those that work in the forest recognise pests and diseases
 - If you have a concern or see an unknown problem, report it to the relevant plant health service
 - Share information with your neighbouring woodland owners
- 7 Clear information** keep all forest workers and users informed and aware
 - Provide clear, visible biosecurity information, also within contract agreements
 - Clearly sign areas of restricted access and provide information as to the reason why
 - Make all contractors and staff aware of their responsibility for hygiene and tree health
- 8 Woodland Management** good husbandry can increase resilience to impacts of pests and diseases
 - Diversify the forest structure with an aim to increase resilience to pest and disease and to climate change
 - In the event of a serious outbreak, comply with any plant health statutory requirements and produce an outbreak management plan

- 5 Site**
 - Keep forest roads and tracks in a good condition
 - Operations near watercourses may risk moving diseases downstream, so take care to avoid vehicles, timber, soil and branches entering streams