



Biosecurity for Landscapers

## For higher risk situations...

Good biosecurity is always important, but there are cases where you might need to be more rigorous, such as when:

- there's a disease or pest present; or
- there's an existing Statutory Plant Health Notice in place.

In these cases, follow specialist guidance, or visit [forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity](http://forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity)

Dispose of any diseased or infected materials by incineration, either on site or at a licensed handling facility. Permits may be required from the Environment Agency.



## Don't give pests and diseases an easy ride

Plants and trees are under increasing threat from the spread of pests and diseases.

Human activity is a key factor in the spread of pests and diseases, being able to move them faster and over longer distances than natural means can.

By sourcing healthy, pest-free trees and plants, and by undertaking basic biosecurity procedures everyday, landscapers can reduce the risk of introducing and spreading damaging pests and diseases.

Pests and diseases can be harboured in live trees and plants, in organic material and on machinery and tools. Landscapers often work across multiple sites, transporting tools, machinery and materials from one site to another, placing them at high risk of introducing or spreading pests and diseases.

Landscapers are in an ideal position to spot symptoms of pests and diseases early and, by taking action promptly, the impact of an outbreak can be reduced.



### Think kit

Clean soil and debris from boots, clothing and tools before leaving any site. Be sure to remove any build-up of soil and debris from all machinery, including material within cabs and footwells, before moving on to the next job.



### Think plants

Develop relationships with nurseries you can trust to help you source plants responsibly. Keep records of purchases and suppliers, and continue to monitor plants for signs of ill health.

Check your plant passport and registration requirements with APHA prior to moving or importing plants.

[gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls](http://gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls)



### Think materials

Source landscaping materials from areas known to be free of pests or diseases. Importation of certain materials and their packaging may be restricted from some areas, whilst others might require a phytosanitary certificate or treatment marks.

[forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)

## Key contacts and resources

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
01904 405 138  
[planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

Stay up-to-date:  
[forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases](http://forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases)  
[gov.uk/guidance/protecting-plant-health-topical-issues](http://gov.uk/guidance/protecting-plant-health-topical-issues)  
[@treepestnews](https://twitter.com/treepestnews) @APHAgovuk

Tell us if you spot any ill health in trees:  
[forestry.gov.uk/trealert](http://forestry.gov.uk/trealert)

Learn more from our e-learning package:  
[forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity](http://forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity)

Forestry Commission  
0300 067 4321  
[tree\\_health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tree_health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## Imported 'instant impact' trees

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nests were found on a newly planted semi-mature oak in London in 2014. The landscape design team purchased the tree from a supplier in continental Europe. Early detection of nests and swift reporting to the Forestry Commission meant that the tree was destroyed within a week of notification.

## Plant passporting

Plant passports are required in the EU for planting material that can host the most serious pests and diseases, and they must accompany material moved within and between Member States, even if the trade is within the UK. Plants must leave production nurseries and holding sites in a healthy condition to prevent the spread of quarantine pests and diseases.

Recent developments in plant health legislation mean that professional operators such as landscapers and garden designers, who are planting certain listed species of plants and trees, might now need to be authorised to issue plant passports.

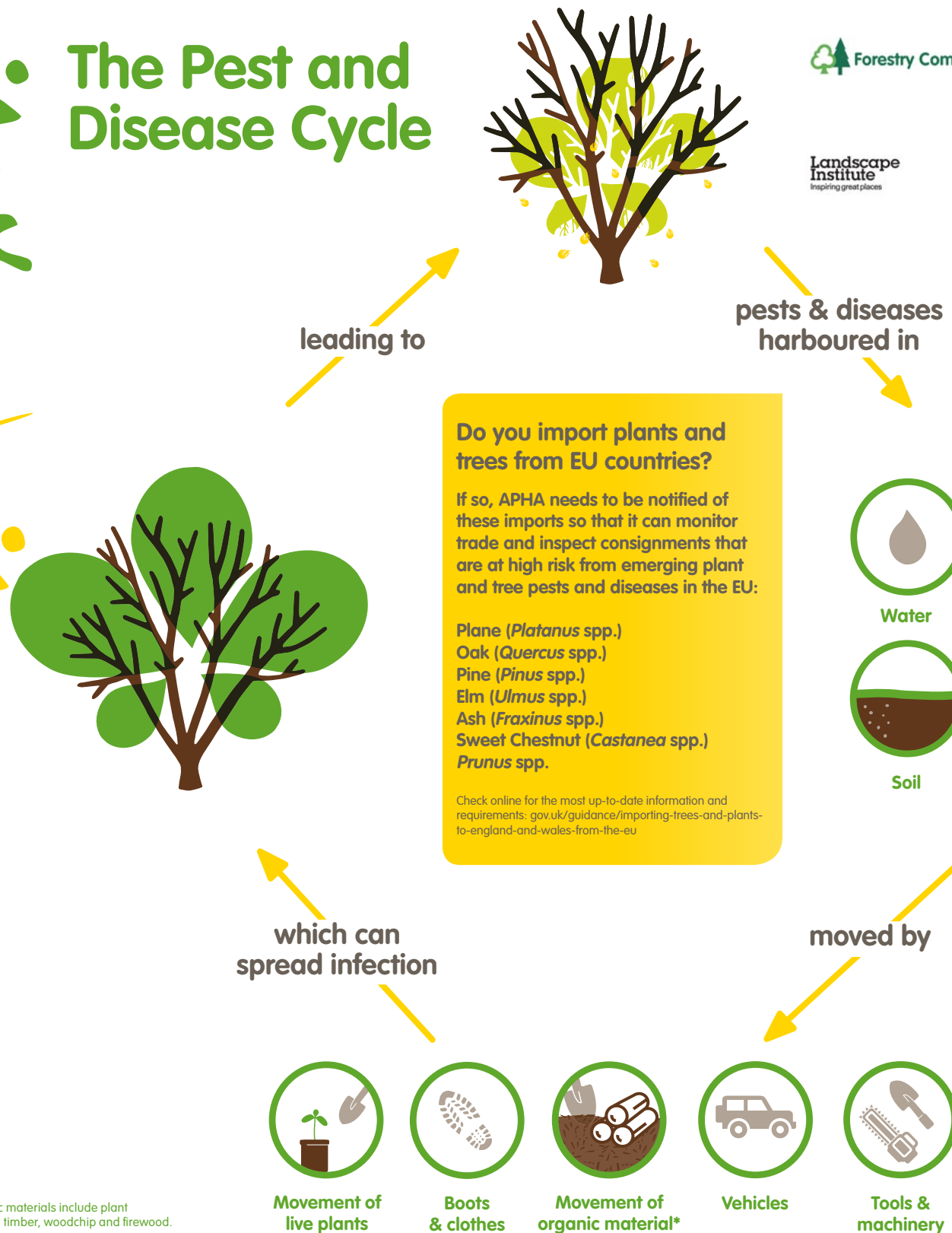
You can find out more about plant passporting at [gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu](http://gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu)

## Pests in untreated wood materials

An outbreak of Asian longhorn beetle was discovered in 2012 in Kent, next to small industrial premises where a previous company had imported stone from China. The source of the outbreak was untreated wood packaging material used in the transport of the stone materials. A total of 2229 trees (many on private property) had to be destroyed to eradicate this highly damaging pest.

(Straw et al., 2014)

# The Pest and Disease Cycle



\* Organic materials include plant material, timber, woodchip and firewood.

