



Irish Timber Growers
Association



www.forests.ie

As the grower sees it

By Mechteld Schuller M.Agr.Sc. (For)
National Forestry Conference
Protecting our Trees and Forests

DAFM Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy 2020-2025



KEY STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

- Introduction of the Strategy Welcomed
- ITGA Submission
- Implementation Plan Required - KPI
- Emergency Response Plan

Key tree pests and diseases



Ash dieback



Elm zig-zag sawfly



Oak lace bug



Dothistroma needle blight



Pine processionary moth



Acute oak decline



Horse chestnut leaf miner



Oak processionary moth



Eight-toothed spruce bark beetle



Sirococcus tsugae



Asian and citrus longhorn beetles



Plane wilt



Emerald ash borer



Great spruce bark beetle



Bronze birch borer



Red-necked longhorn beetle



European mountain ash
ringspot-associated virus



Phytophthora ramorum



Dutch elm disease



Sweet chestnut blight



Phytophthora austrocedri



Horse chestnut bleeding canker



Oriental chestnut gall wasp



Phytophthora lateralis

“ It is far more practical, cost effective and beneficial to the environment to prevent a pest or disease epidemic than deal with the consequences of an outbreak. ”

The Woodland Trust

Source:



Climate Change

- Increases the Risk and Impact of Pests
- Causes:
 - Rise in temperature
 - Storm events
 - Periods of drought
- Leads to:
 - Accelerated development of pests
 - Reduction in tree defense capabilities
 - Increased geographic spread of pests

Pest & Disease Outbreaks

- Impact Forest Ecosystems – alter the balance
- Affect Carbon Storage
- Disrupt Timber Supply
- Affect Regional Economies, Markets & Employment
- Impact Recreational Values
- Can affect Social Values



Policy & Implementation: Vision & Plan



Prioritising:

- Prevention
- Early Detection
 - Systems
 - Pathologists/Entomologists
- Rapid Response :
Emergency Response Plan

Planning Now for Future:

- Learn from the past
- Learn from others

FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY 8

Living with bark beetles:
impacts, outlook and
management options



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE
www.efi.int

Control & Containment

Ash Dieback Lesson:

- Control very costly
- Not always possible
- Biosecurity Measures Essential
- Control methods limited
- European Green Deal – 50% Reduction Chemical Use
- Employing forest certification systems in FMP:
IPMS, ESRAs, Monitoring, Record Keeping



Chemical Use

Aim EU Green Deal & Forest Certification:
Reducing / Eliminating Chemical Use

Where Required:

- Risk Mitigation is Key
- Labels - Safety Information



Risk Mitigation

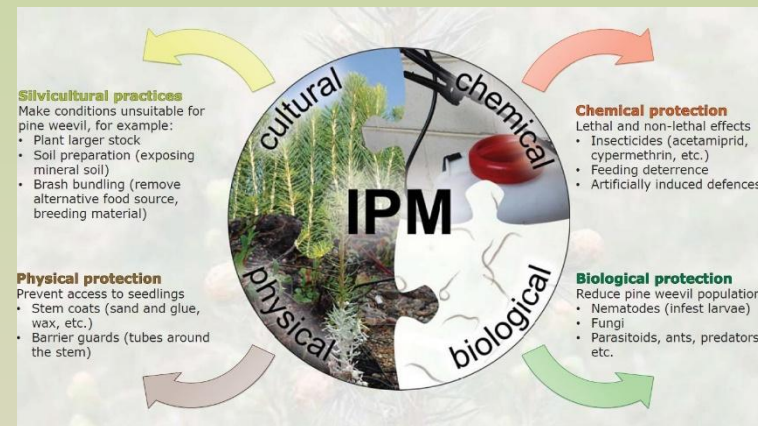
Where Chemical use Only Viable Option:

- Choose Least Harmful Chemical
- Use Minimum Amount of Product
- Mitigating Measures to Protect:
 - Workers – Training, PPE
 - Environment – Buffer zones / setbacks
 - Public – Signage
- Set out in:
 - Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPMS)
 - Environmental & Social Risk Assessment (ESRA)

Forest Research

Coford funded Research Projects:

- Investigating alternative pest control methods
- Research welcomed
- Results:
 - Communicated to Sector - Timely
 - Translated into Practical Applications



Conclusions

Priorities:

- Prevention & Early Detection Measures
- Finalise & Communicate Implementation Plan
- Communicate Emergency Response Plan
- Develop & Communicate Biosecurity Guidelines for anyone entering forests
- Risk Mitigation & Use of IMPS & ESRAs in Forest Management Planning
- Further Research & Practical Solutions



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