

Oak lace bug

Oak lace bug, or *Corythucha arcuata*, is not yet in the UK, but has been highlighted by Defra as a potential future risk.

The oak lace bug is native to North America but now present in at least 11 countries in continental Europe, likely because of movement within traded materials including plants and plant material. Evidence from Europe suggests this pest may have a greater potential environmental impact than previously believed.

The risk

In isolation, the oak lace bug represents a relatively minor threat to host trees; the adult, which measures just 3-8mm when fully grown, feeds on the lower surface of leaves by piercing the epidermis and sucking fluid from plant tissue. However, in large populations - which are common in countries where the pest is now present – this can cause significant yellowing/browning of foliage and even premature leaf drop on trees. This reduces the vigour and growth of affected specimens, and weakened trees are likely to be more susceptible to pests and diseases, as well as other stress factors such as drought.



1: Oak lace bug adult © Gyögy Csoka (Hungary)

Host range

Nearly all Eurasian oak trees are hosts, but there is also evidence to suggest other broad-leaved trees including Acer (maple), Carpinus betulus (hornbeam) Corylus (hazel), Fagus (beech), Prunus spp., Sorbus (whitebeam), Tilia (lime) and Ulmus (elm) may also be targeted.

No vector is required for the oak lace bug; it is a free-living organism.



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Reporting

Suspected sightings of oak lace bug should be reported to the following relevant authority:

For England and Wales: PHSI headquarters: Tel: 01904 405138

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For Scotland, Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

For Northern Ireland, DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Further information

Further information, including the pest risk analyses, may be reviewed at the following location:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/data/pests/14609/data>

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