



PLANT HEALTH AND BREXIT

Protecting our trees and plants, whether productive crops or designated habitats, from imported pests and diseases, will require concerted and co-ordinated action from all parties: governments, landowners and managers, and nurseries.

Imported live plant material

What are the biggest risks?

HIGH RISK

LOW RISK

LANDSCAPING AND HORTICULTURE

The biggest risks to biosecurity come from the use of imported plants with soil by the horticulture, landscape and amenity sectors.

FORESTRY IMPORTS

All live plant material for forestry is imported under the Forest Reproductive Material regulations ensuring traceability and control.

SEED

Imported seed does not pose a significant risk, and is important for genetic diversity and resilience.

Where do we want to be in five years?

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Governments and regulators should...

IMMEDIATELY

Ban imports of trees in pots.

Address the significant biosecurity risk from plants in soil in the horticulture, landscape and amenity sectors.

IN THE NEXT YEAR

Stabilise grant schemes, streamline application process and meet adequate deadlines for granting planting permissions.

Allow flexibility in grant years to enable planting to be deferred if necessary until UK grown stock is available.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS

Require phytosanitary certification for all imported material.

Tender for plant supply on long-term contracts specifying UK-grown stock.
Specify that grants will only support UK-grown stock.

In five years we would like to have no trade in high-risk imported plant material, driven by a lack of demand for them.

Landowners, management companies, contractors and nurseries should...

IMMEDIATELY

Ensure compliance with basic biosecurity measures.

WHEN GRANTS AND APPLICATIONS ARE STABLE

Plan applications and order in advance to allow time for growing of stock (2-3 years).

Specify and supply only UK-grown trees.



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Imported firewood and wood packaging



If not de-barked and dried correctly, firewood and wood packaging can harbour threats to the health of UK trees.

32,564

The number of reported tonnes of firewood with packaging from EU and non-EU states into England & Scotland in the first 9 months of 2017, far higher than expected.

28

The percentage of imports that were non-compliant. (13 of 46 inspections).

8,000

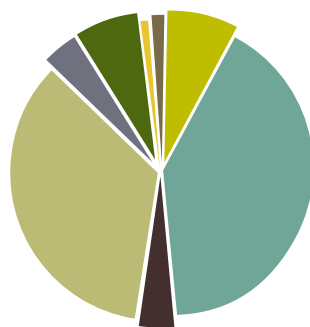
The hectares of managed broadleaf woodland that could supply this firewood.

34,000

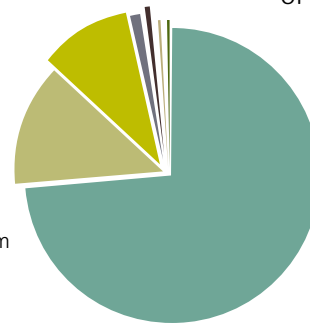
The hectares of broadleaf woodland created in the last 5 years. Large amounts of UK broadleaf woodland is unmanaged.

Imports – by type and country

Sources: Statutory Notification Scheme for importing solid wood fuel, Forestry Commission GB&NI Tree Health Advisory Group Report 2017, forestry statistics.

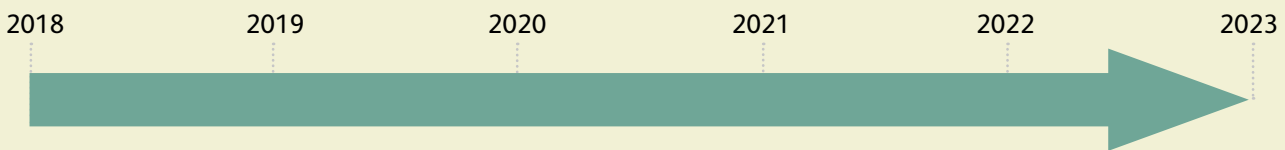


- Alder
- Ash
- Beech
- Birch
- Conifer
- Oak
- Hornbeam
- Other



- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Russia
- Ghana
- South Africa
- Namibia

Where do we want to be in five years?



Governments and regulators should...

IMMEDIATELY

Increase monitoring and reporting to include the majority of imported firewood and wood packaging material.
or
Ban imported firewood.

IN THE NEXT YEAR

Report area of woodland under management in annual Forest Statistics.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS

Promote UK-grown firewood.

Provide adequate grants and support for woodland management and streamline the process of approving felling permissions.

Landowners, management companies and nurseries should...

IN THE NEXT YEAR

Explore opportunities to bring unmanaged woodlands into management and help government create suitable support.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS

Take up and promote opportunities provided by government.

In five years, financial and regulatory incentives must make it easier and cheaper to supply firewood by managing UK woodlands, than to import it.