



[helpline@defra.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

29 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Stakeholder engagement on a summary of the EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) Pest Risk Analysis

I am writing to seek your views on the EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) summary for *Heterobasidion irregulare* (Fungi: Bondarzewiaceae). As mentioned in the summary, new GB regulations will be drafted using the EPPO PRA recommendations with the aim of further mitigating the risk of introducing this pest.

The summaries of EPPO's findings and their relevance to GB are enclosed. A link to the EPPO PRA can be found at the webpage below:

[Heterobasidion irregulare \(HETEIR\)\[Documents\]| EPPO Global Database](#)

### Recommendations for action against *Heterobasidion irregulare*

The EPPO PRA recommended that:

(1) Wood packaging material should:

meet ISPM 15 requirements.

(2) Round wood and sawn wood of conifer hosts should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

be subject to a heat treatment.



(3) Particle wood and waste wood (not agglomerated) of conifer hosts should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

be subject to a heat treatment.

(4) Bark of conifer hosts (if measures are needed) should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

be subject to a heat treatment.

(5) Host plants for planting (except seeds) should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

Grown under complete physical protection and transported in conditions preventing infestation.

Or

be subject to a systems approach (recommending that the imported plants are younger than 5 years, grown in pots in sterilised substrate and a certain distance from the closest infestation, intensive monitoring etc.)

(6) Christmas trees of hosts (if measures are needed) should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

Grown under complete physical protection and transported in conditions preventing infestation.

Or

be subject to a systems approach (recommending that the imported plants are younger than 5 years, grown in pots in sterilised substrate and a certain distance from the closest infestation, intensive monitoring etc.)

(7) Wood of deciduous non-conifer hosts (*Quercus*, *Prunus serotina*, *Arbutus menziesii*, *Arctostaphylos* spp.) (if measures are needed) should:

come from a Pest Free Area,

Or

be subject to a heat treatment.

**We would welcome your views and comments on the summary enclosed.**

In submitting any comments, you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessments?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the pest risk assessment summary and consider that you have nothing further to add?

All responses should be sent to [plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk) by **7 October 2024**.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully,

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