



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

17 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

## UK policy review for *Phytophthora pluvialis*

I am writing to seek your views on the UK policy review for *Phytophthora pluvialis*. Additional research carried out since the first finding in the UK in 2021 has been collated to assess *Phytophthora pluvialis* against the Quarantine Pest (QP) criteria and is being proposed as an addendum to the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) carried out in 2022. A link to the addendum to the PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

**We would welcome your views and comments on the addendum to the PRA and the proposals for future action.**

In submitting any comments, you may wish to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty that remains in the PRA addendum?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive. The objective of this stakeholder engagement is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

## Background

*Phytophthora pluvialis* is a fungus-like pathogen which affects mainly conifer species with known hosts including Douglas fir and tanoak in the USA, and radiata pine and Douglas fir in New Zealand.



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In August 2021, the first outbreak of *P. pluvialis* in Great Britain - and Europe - was identified on a stand of western hemlock in Cornwall and a rapid PRA was undertaken. Due to uncertainties, no final judgement was made on whether it met the criteria for QP status in Great Britain. It was agreed that it would be treated as a QP for regulatory purposes and management options would be put in place in a precautionary manner whilst a number of research projects were initiated to try and answer the key areas of uncertainty and improve our evidence base.

We now have this new evidence which has been collated into an updated addendum to the PRA and used to assess *P. pluvialis* against the quarantine pest criteria.

## **Recommendations for action**

The additional information gained from the research projects carried out over the last couple of years have altered some of the risk assessment judgements on this pest since the 2022 PRA. Its distribution, means of natural spread and lower impacts than were originally thought mean that there is much more confidence in concluding that this pest does not meet the criteria to be a QP for Great Britain, and statutory action should no longer be taken.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **25 January 2026**.

Information provided in response to this stakeholder engagement, 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 stakeholder engagement. 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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