

Pest Alert: Plane lace bug (*Corythucha ciliata*)



Figs 1-4 left to right: An adult plane lace bug. Many adults on lower surface of a plane leaf. Heavily infested trees result in the whole leaf becoming chlorotic and dropped early. Moderately infested leaves are less likely to be dropped, but often exhibit 'bronzing'. Figs 1-2 © Bugwood.org, Figs 3-4 ©Chris Malumphy Fera Science Ltd.

- The **plane lace bug** is native to North America and is now widespread in mainland Europe. It mainly **feeds on the leaves of plane (*Platanus*) trees** and adults and nymphs occur on the lower leaf surface.
- Although two previous populations of plane lace bug (in Bedfordshire in 2006) appear to have died out, in 2024 the Forestry Commission confirmed findings of plane lace bug in central London.
- Feeding on plane, lace bugs cause the leaves to show chlorotic stippling (light coloured marks) near the leaf veins. Large populations can cause the whole leaf to become chlorotic (lighter coloured) or bronzed and leaves will drop from the tree earlier than they normally would.
- The plane lace bug is most likely to come into the United Kingdom by **hitchhiking** on transportation (i.e. vehicles, ships, trains, lorries) but could also arrive on imported plane trees.
- The best time to spot plane lace bugs is in late summer, look for lighter leaves and leaf-less trees.
- In very rare cases, bites from these bugs have caused a mild rash; this is when populations of the bugs have been high and people have been in close proximity to those populations for a long time (e.g. sat under a heavily infested tree).

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

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

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

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>

For finds in the wider environment:

In GB, please use Tree Alert: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

For NI, please use TreeCheck: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck>