

Pest Alert: *Corythucha arcuata*



Fig. 1. Oak lace bug adult © Gyögy Csoka (Hungary)



Fig. 2. Damage symptoms on oak leaves © Gyögy Csoka (Hungary)

- ***Corythucha arcuata***; the oak lace bug (Fig. 1) is native to North America, but has been in Europe since at least 2000. Initially reported in northern Italy it is now found in at least 11 countries in continental Europe.
- It is a pest of *Quercus* (**oak**), but can also feed on a range of other broad-leaved trees including: *Acer* (**maple**), *Carpinus betulus* (**hornbeam**), *Corylus sp.* (**hazel**), *Fagus* (**beech**), *Prunus* spp., *Rosa*, *Rubus caesius*, *Sorbus* (**whitebeam**), *Tilia* (**lime**) and *Ulmus* sp. (**elm**)
- The pest feeds on **leaves** and large populations can cause **severe yellowing**, then browning of the foliage and **premature leaf drop** (Fig. 2). This **reduces photosynthesis, growth and tree vigour**. Minor branch dieback occurs if infestations are severe. Infested trees are likely to become more susceptible to other pests and diseases and other stress factors such as drought.
- The highest risk of entry to the UK is on **infested plants or plant material, such as logs**. The adults are not strong fliers, but the lace bug can **hide in bark crevices** and in the moss that covers tree trunks.

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

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:**

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, 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>