

Pest Alert:

Dryocosmus kuriphilus

- In June 2015 the first finding of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp) in the UK was confirmed, in a Kent woodland. The wasp is native to Asia, and has been introduced to continental Europe.
- It affects *Castanea* (including sweet chestnut), causing galling on leaves, twigs and petioles – inhibiting leaf function, which can weaken the tree, reducing nut production and making it more susceptible to disease.
- The galls produced are distinctive: green or rose-coloured, and can be up to 4 cm in diameter (see Figs 1, 2 and 3) (photos courtesy of Fera Science Limited). No other organism is known to cause galls on sweet chestnut in the UK.



Fig 1: Multiple galls



Fig 2: Rose-coloured gall

Fig 3: Early stage galling



If you see any suspicious galls, please inform the relevant authority given below:

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 01904 405138

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

Tel: 0131 244 8935

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

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

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@dardni.gov.uk

Web: www.dardni.gov.uk

The Forestry Commission, using the tree alert form:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert>