

Plant Passporting Updates No.20: July 2019

Dear Plant Passporters and oak tree importers, this shorter edition is a must read if you grow and trade in oak plants.

Ongoing controls to protect against the tree pest oak processionary moth Action: Chemical spraying of oak trees

Landscapers, nurseries, landowners and woodland managers are being urged to take action after the Plant Health Service intercepted a number of cases of [oak processionary moth caterpillars](#) on trees imported from the continent.

Anyone who has received oak trees imported from the continent should urgently check their trees for OPM, and nurseries should spray trees that they might be holding as stock with the pesticide Deltamethrin as a precautionary measure to stop this pest spreading. It is vital these trees are checked and sprayed now to minimise the spread of this damaging tree pest and protect the health of our oak trees.

The majority of the UK is designated as a protected zone, although OPM is an established pest in London and surrounding areas. A government programme has been in place since 2012 to minimise the size, spread and impact.

To address recent interceptions, [strengthened measures on the import of most species of oak into England](#) were introduced to protect trees from the threat of OPM on Monday 15th July. Strengthened measures in Wales are due to come into force on Friday 19th July.

This document is intended to help nurseries in England and Wales find out more about spraying their oak trees with the pesticide Deltamethrin (trade names Bandu or Decis). Further information and resources can be found below.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Method

All oak trees on site need to be sprayed with a product called Deltamethrin (trade name Bandu or Decis).

One litre will be enough to treat approximately 500 trees and can be applied with a knapsack sprayer. PA1 and PA6 operator certificates would be expected.

The whole of the oak tree needs to be sprayed. Some larger trees might need a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) to cover the whole of the tree.

A supplier is provided below. If you cannot get Deltamethrin or have any urgent enquiries, contact Andrew Hoppit, Forestry Commission OPM Project Manager on 07884 234725, andrew.hoppit@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

Always use Deltamethrin in line with the instructions on the product label.

Supplier

Barrettine Environmental Health, Crown Way, Caxton Industrial Park, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8XJ

Safety

If you suspect OPM, you should not attempt to touch or move infected material yourself as the nests and caterpillars can pose some risks to human health. For more on how to identify OPM, visit the [Forest Research website](#).

Always use Deltamethrin in line with the instructions on the product label, ensure correct Personal Protective Equipment is used and application should be performed by a competent professional.

Environmental considerations

Care must be taken when using Deltamethrin, on or near flowering plants as well as rivers, streams, ponds or other water bodies. Always check the product label for full information.

Spotting OPM

Pictures of caterpillars and nests can be found on the [Forest Research website](#). If you spot OPM caterpillars or nests on your trees, please report it via the online portal [Tree Alert](#) and contact your local APHA Plant Health Inspector.

Further information

- [Tools and resources](#)
- [The Statutory Instrument in England](#)
- [To report sightings of tree pests and diseases](#)
- [For guidance on importing trees and plants to England and Wales from the EU](#)
- [To find out more about plant health Protected Zones](#)
- The Plant Health Service is made up of Defra, Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Enquiries

For customers in England and Wales, call the Plant Health Helpline on 01904 405 138 to report suspicion of a quarantine plant pest or disease, or for advice and guidance on plant health regulations. Email planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk.

Get in touch

Always check your plants for symptoms. If you suspect disease, or have any queries, please speak to your local plant inspector or contact PHSI HQ (planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk or 01904 405138).

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