Preparing tree and landscape management plans for plant health

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London Tree Officers Association - National Association of Tree Officers

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. June 14th 2019

Contents

- Tree officers and managers
- Tree and landscape management plans
- Biosecurity
- Collaboration
- Conclusions

The role of tree officers and managers

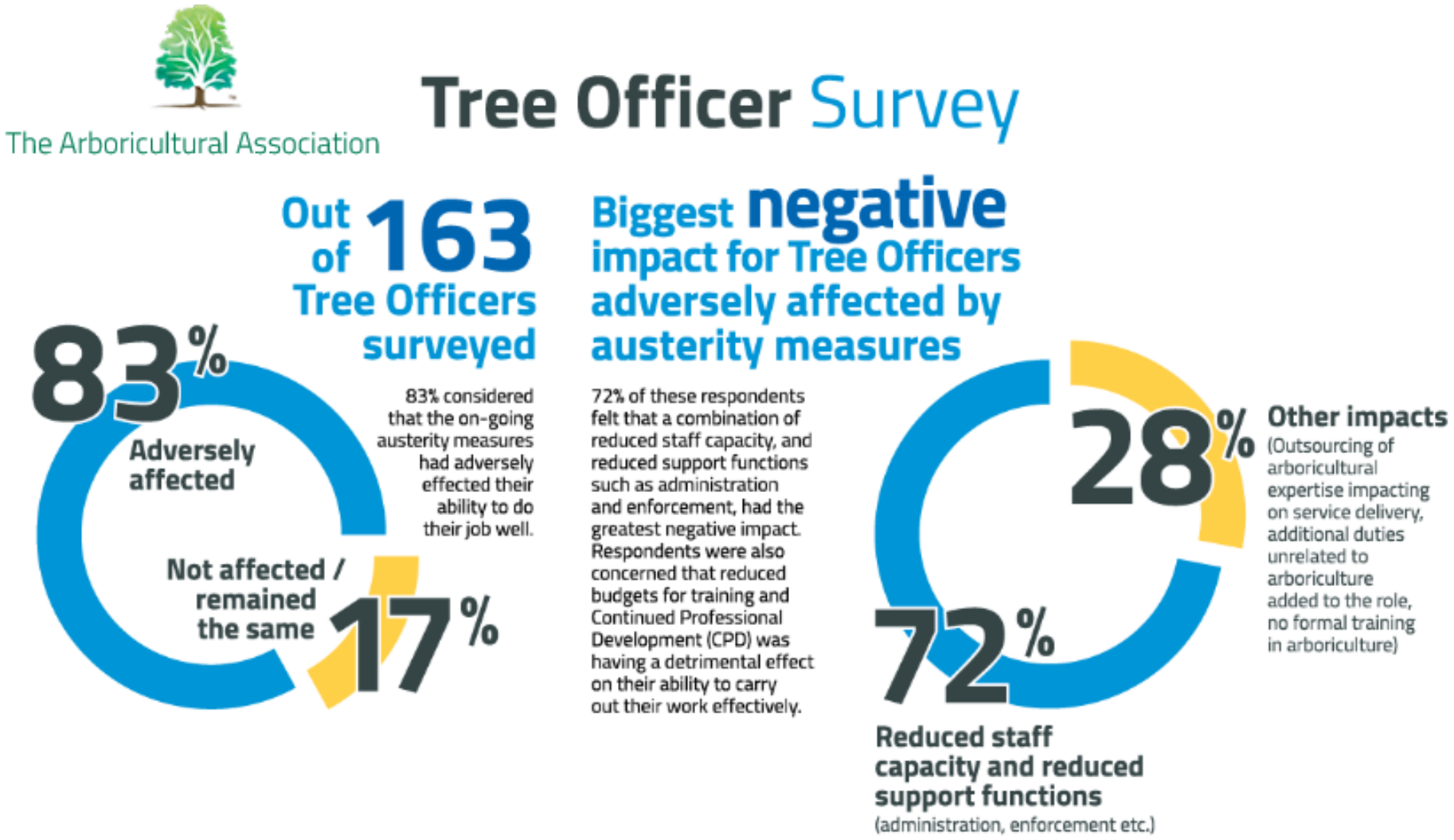
- Local Authority.
- Public realm or planning.
- Multi-skilled professionals.

- Strategy, policy and plans:
  - Write;
  - Influence;
  - Implement;
  - Enforce.

Tree officers: Challenges

- Resources.
- Climate change.
- Pests and diseases.

- How can tree and landscape plans/strategies help?



How can tree and landscape plans/strategies help?

- Resources: Make the case for increased budgets/more staff.
- Climate change: Future-proof the urban landscape and forest.
- Pests and diseases: Promote and enshrine biosecurity.

The value of tree and landscape plans

- Guidance.
- Support and justification.
- Forward planning.
- Evidence-based.

- Policy v strategy.

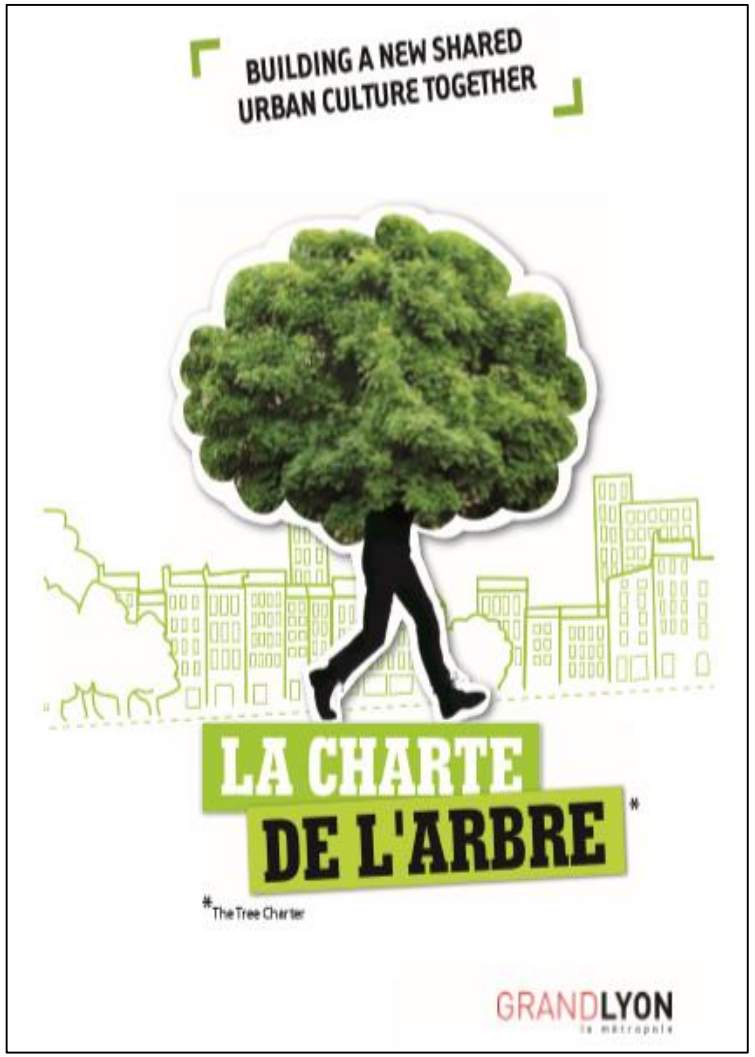
- One size does not fit all..

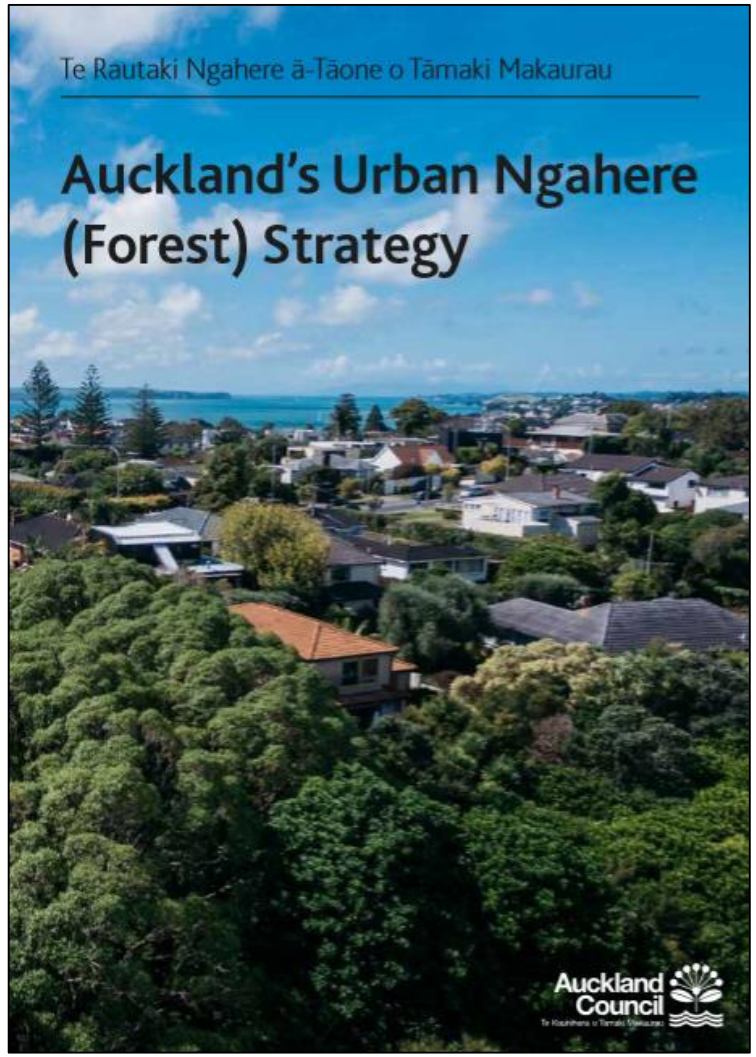
Tree and landscape plans for resilience

- Resilience in the urban forest:
  - Species diversity;
  - Biodiversity;
  - Sustainable water management;
  - Plastic-free alternatives;
  - Sustainable suppliers;
  - Biosecurity policies;
  - Contractor requirements.

Forestry England

Tree strategies: International examples





Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy

- Right tree in the right place.
- Preference for native species.
- Ensure urban forest diversity.
- Protect mature, healthy trees.
- Create ecological corridors and connections.
- Access for all residents.
- Manage urban forest on public and private land.
- Deploy regulatory and non-regulatory tools.
- Manage the whole lifecycle of urban trees.

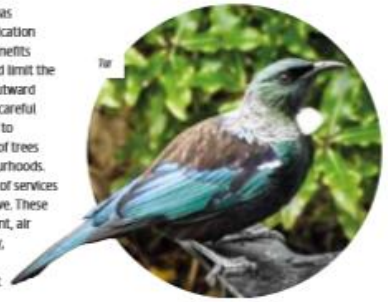
He mahere rautaki mō te ngahere ā-tāone o Tāmaki Makaurau
A strategic plan for Auckland's urban ngahere (forest)

When Tāne went to the heavens – so the story goes – he was enraptured by the tūī that lived in his brother Rehua's hair. Tāne desperately wanted to bring the tūī back to earth but he was told he must first plant trees to provide food. So Tāne introduced trees to our world and, three years later when the kahikatea blossomed, Tāne's wish came true. The tūī came to live with him.

When it comes to trees, the message is much the same. If we plant trees now, in time, we create value for our communities. We might even hear the dawn chorus – e kō i te ata – once again within urban Auckland.

Auckland is growing and changing rapidly. To accommodate this, Auckland Council has committed to a strategy of urban intensification to increase housing density, deliver the benefits associated with a compact urban form and limit the negative impacts linked with continued outward growth. Successful development requires careful planning; intensification and growth need to complement the protection and planting of trees and vegetation to create liveable neighbourhoods. Trees and vegetation also provide a range of services required for Auckland to function and thrive. These include enhanced stormwater management, air pollution removal, improved water quality, cooling to reduce the urban heat island effect, and ecological corridors to connect habitats and improve biodiversity.

Our urban ngahere faces a number of pressures. Alongside the need for urban development, amendments to the Resource Management Act (RMA) came into effect in 2015, lifting blanket tree protection in urban areas. As a result, the vast majority of trees on private urban properties are no longer protected. Threats from pests and diseases, as well as the impacts of climate change are further challenges. If we want to continue to benefit from the services provided by our urban ngahere it is essential that we better understand its status and value and plan to protect and grow it. Our urban ngahere has the mauri (life force) to care for us but needs our help to be sustainable and healthy.

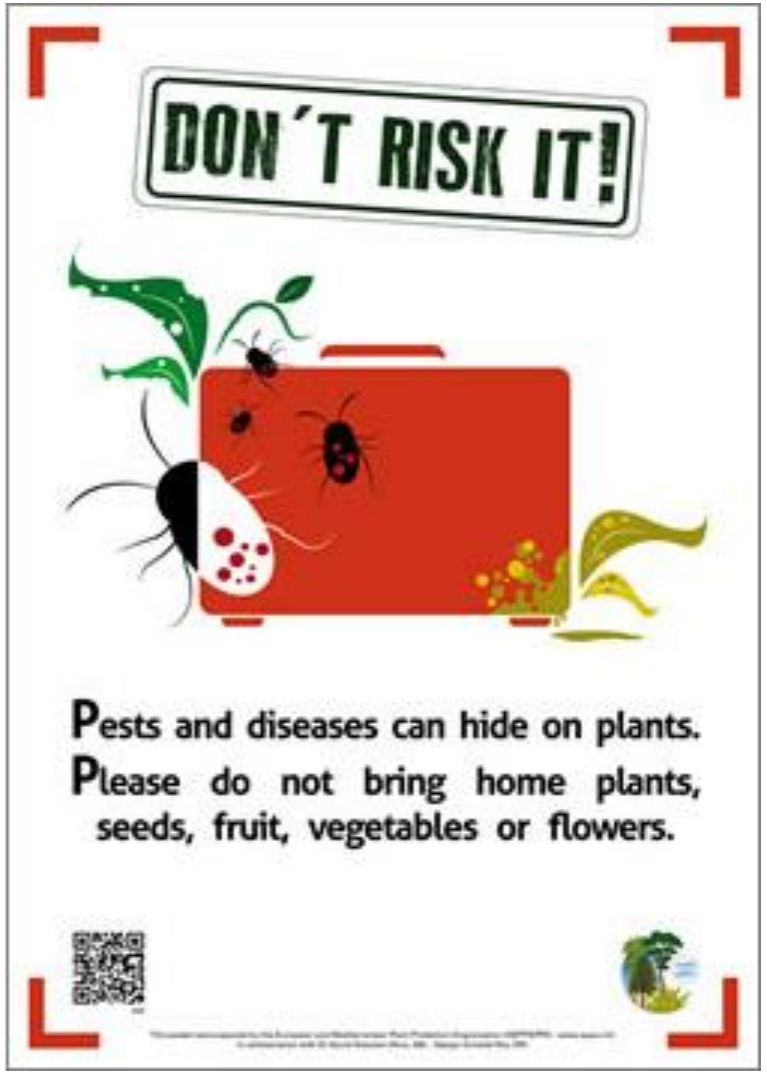


The importance of biosecurity

- Implications:
  - Plant health;
  - Environmental;
  - Amenity;
  - Cultural;
  - Financial;
  - Reputational.

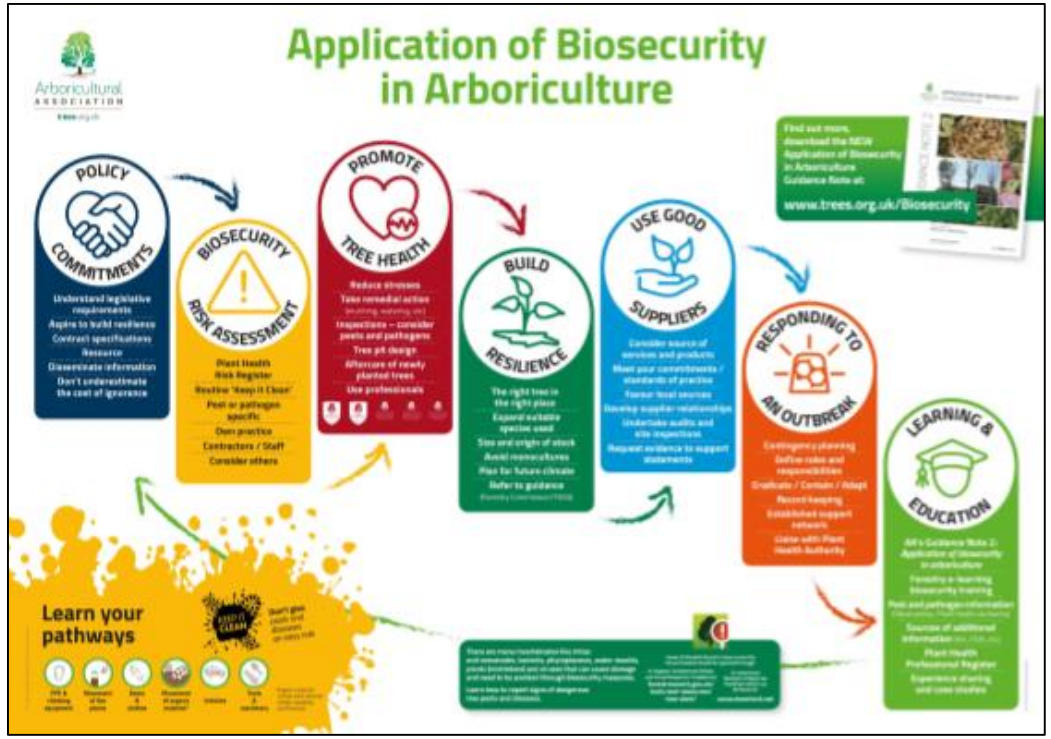
- "*Imported, not invasive*"

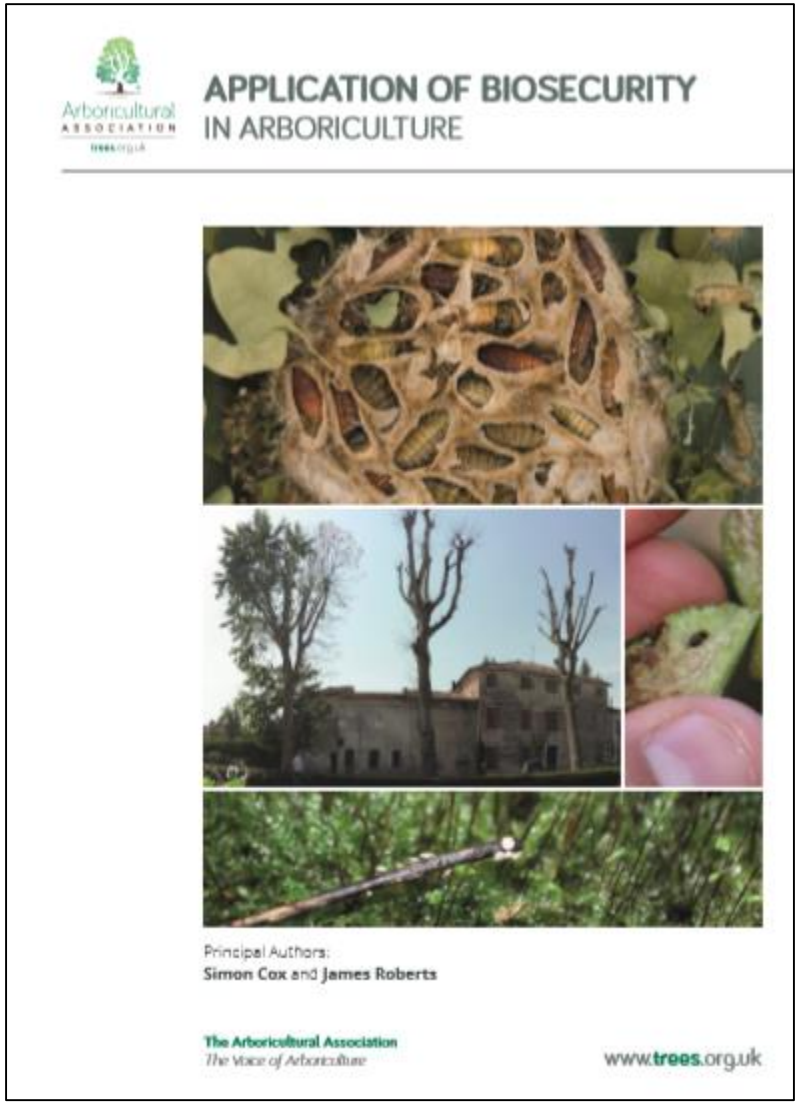
(Prof. Lucio Montecchio).



Arboricultural Association Biosecurity Guidance

- Practical advice.
- Helpful for tree officers.
- Royal support for biosecurity.

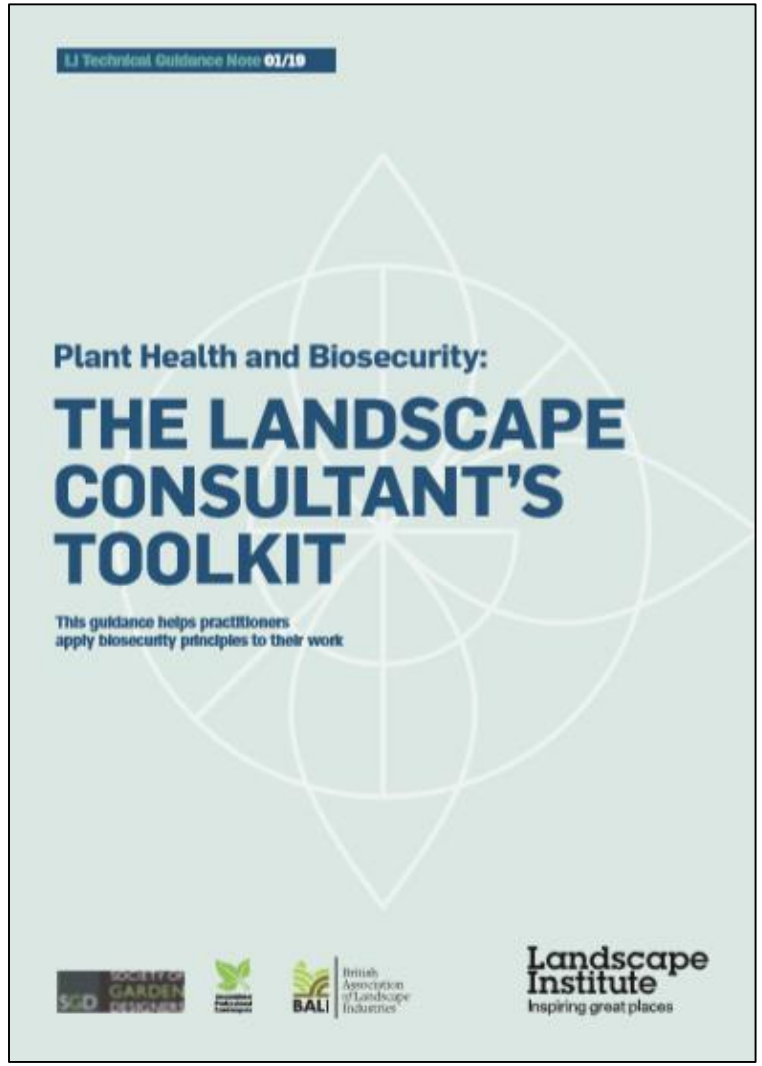




Landscape Institute Biosecurity Toolkit

Specifying plants with confidence continued

Plant genus or species	Pests or pathogens	Control or mitigation measures	Pathways	Policy and regulations	Risk Rating
Abies	Pinewood nematode (Bursaphelenchus xylophilus)	Notify Forestry Commission or APHA	Cut flowers or branches; Plants for planting (except seeds bulbs and tubers); Non-squared wood	Emergency measures	30
Acer	Citrus longhorn beetle (Anoplophora chinensis)	Citrus longhorn beetle is not yet in the UK. However, familiarisation with the symptoms is suggested and notification of relevant authorities essential in the event of a discovery.	Cut flowers or branches; Plants for planting (except seeds bulbs and tubers)	EU Annex 1	30
	Asian longhorn beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis)	Asian longhorn beetle is not yet in the UK. However, familiarisation with the symptoms is suggested and notification of relevant authorities essential in the event of a discovery.	Plants for planting (except seeds bulbs and tubers); Wood and wood products; Wood packaging material	EC IAI; EPPO A1	40
	Sweet chestnut blight (Cryphonectria parasitica)	Suppliers must be able to supply a Plant Passport. If possible, order plants early and quarantine in a low risk area for a period of time before planting	Plants for planting (except seeds bulbs and tubers)	Annex IIB (UK protected zone) and plant passporting reqs	30



Tree officers and biosecurity

- Tree officers:
  - Specify planting.
  - Engage and oversee contractors.
  - Write/influence strategy and policy.
  - Regularly inspect their trees.
- Key role in biosecurity.
- Local Authority biosecurity policies.

London Tree Officers Association and biosecurity

- 2017 position statement.
- Pan-industry Biosecurity Working Party.
- Specific Working Groups:
  - OPM;
  - Canker stain of plane;
  - Massaria.
- Industry collaboration.
- May 2019 Seminar.

Canker stain of plane (CSP)

- *Ceratocystis platani.*
- UK Protected Zone Status 2014.
- LTOA CSP surveys.
- Dissemination: document and training.
- International network.
- Euphresco project.

- Influence on tree management plans: Biosecurity, diversity.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing

Detecting and identifying

Canker stain of plane

LUCIO MONTECCHIO

2nd edition revised and updated by

John PARKER and Neville FAY

Canker stain of plane

A guide to prevention

LTOA

Canker stain of plane is not yet in the UK.
It is a human-assisted pathogen – don't be the one to assist it.

⚠ TREE OFFICERS/MANAGERS

Ensure that your contractor/contract manager is committed to biosecurity and understands the potential consequences of Canker stain of plane *(Ceratocystis platani)* reaching the UK.

⚠ CONTRACTORS

Ensure that your employees are aware of this information. Always disinfect kit and take exceptional care if working abroad and then returning to the UK.

Ceratocystis platani (Canker stain of plane, or CSP) is one of the most significant threats facing London's trees. This pathogen has spread through much of mainland Europe and has been responsible for the death and removal of hundreds of thousands of planes.

In 2014 the European Union awarded the UK Protected Zone Status for *Ceratocystis*, establishing controls around importing plane saplings from countries which are not free of CSP. This is a positive step but does not account for the most likely entry point of CSP into the UK: contaminated equipment.

In 1986 CSP was confirmed as being present in Switzerland. It is believed that it entered the country via a tree surgeon who worked first on infected planes in Italy and then uninfected planes in Switzerland without disinfecting their equipment. **We must avoid this happening in the UK.**

As a comparison, Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetapoea processionea*) was imported to the UK on an infected sapling in 2005. Since then it has spread across London and the south east of the UK and has cost has cost millions of pounds to control/contain. We must learn from these experiences.

PREVENTION – A guidance note for tree officers/managers and contractors

www.ltoa.org.uk

Massaria

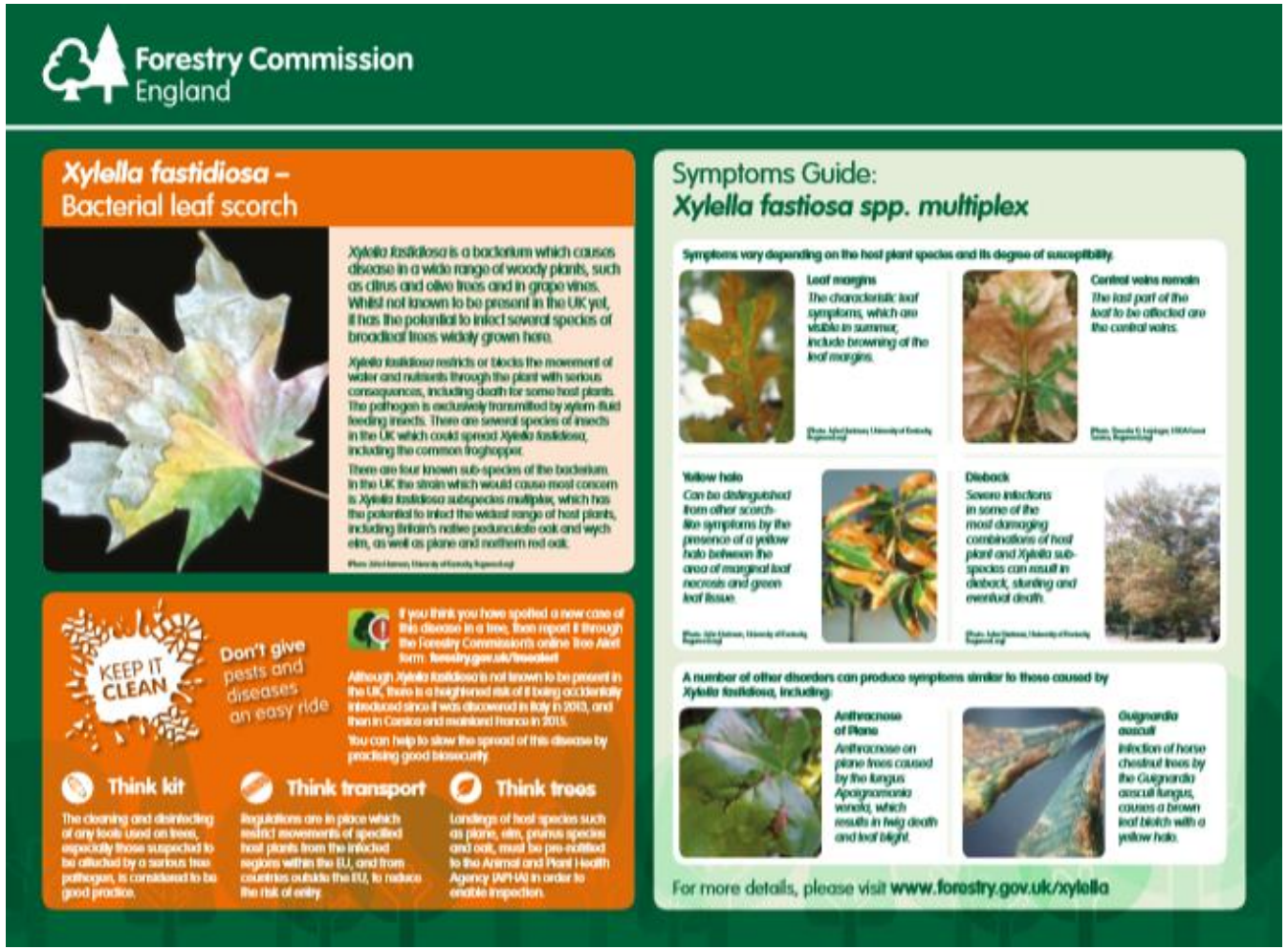
- 2013 LTOA document.
- Industry best practice.
- New information and input.
- 2019 revised document.

- Influence on tree management plans: Increased inspection regimes.

Xylella

- Tree and landscape concern.
- Collaboration between industries.
- www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/

- Influence on tree management plans: Increased biosecurity controls.



Conclusions

- Tree officers are on the front line of plant health.
- Tree and landscape management plans can help.
- Wider collaboration is essential.

LTOA
London Tree Officers Association

Thank you

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www.ltoa.org.uk

- TED Talk (YouTube): *Why trees are better than people*