

How you can help

If you are visiting or working in affected woodland, please help to slow the spread of plant diseases by taking some simple precautions

- Stay on marked paths;
- Scrape mud, soil and debris off your boots and cycle tyres before leaving;
- Brush leaves, twigs and debris off your clothes and vehicles (and the dog!) before leaving;
- Don't remove wood or plant material from the woodland;
- All known affected sites will be clearly signed and we request that you follow any additional instructions on these signs;
- **Particular care should be taken when visiting areas of heathland after visiting affected woodland.**

Tel: 01624 801263

E-mail: forestry@gov.im

Detailed guidance is available from:
Forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity

Other sources of information:

- Forestry.gov.uk/pramorom
- Fera.defra.gov.uk
- Facebook.com/DefaHillsForestsGlens

Issued January 2014 (1) by:
Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture

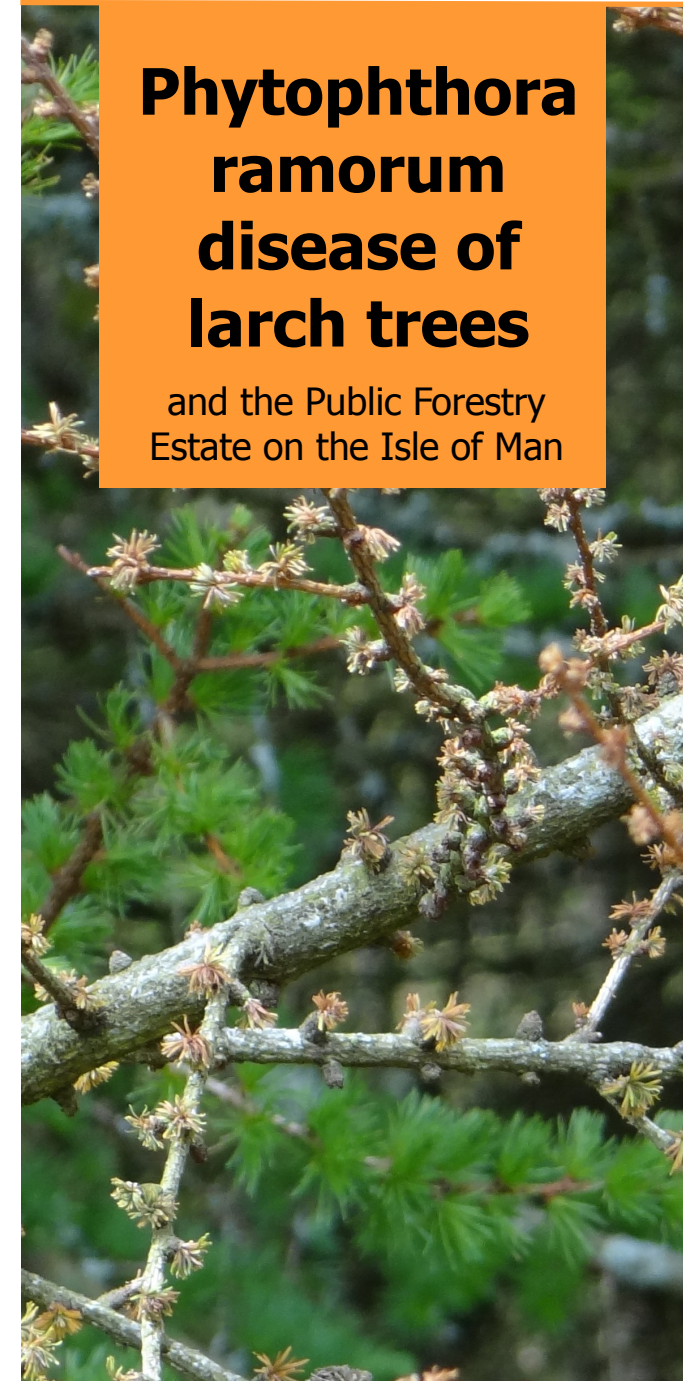


Isle of Man
Government
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Department of Environment,
Food and Agriculture

Phytophthora ramorum disease of larch trees

and the Public Forestry
Estate on the Isle of Man



Phytophthora ramorum disease in the Isle of Man

Larch trees in the Isle of Man are being affected by *Phytophthora ramorum*. This disease has the potential to have a devastating effect on native flora. Here, we explain how we are dealing with it on the Public Forestry Estate.

Key Facts

- *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*) is a fungus-like pathogen. The disease is known to affect more than 150 plant species including ecologically important native species such as blaeberry.
- *P. ramorum* is especially destructive on larch trees, capable of killing them within a year.
- Infected larch needles produce spores which are carried in mist and rain droplets by the wind. This can spread the disease to other plants over a wider area.
- Spores are also spread through water courses, the movement of infected plants and on soil, litter and plant debris caught on footwear, animals, vehicles and equipment.
- Infected shrubs, such as rhododendron can also produce infected spores.

Treatment & control

Currently the only effective means of control is to fell or kill all larch within an affected area as quickly as possible. With the level of infection we have on the Island, it will be necessary to remove all of the larch in most plantations. It may appear as though some healthy-looking trees are being cut down; however, it is important to ensure all trees in an infected area are felled.

The future

Where appropriate, we will restock areas that have been felled with a diverse and resilient mix of species. Careful planning and consultation with stakeholders will ensure that the next generation of Manx woodland not only benefits the environment and timber production, but will increase recreational opportunities.

Environmental impacts

The felling will have environmental and landscape implications, but it will provide an opportunity to increase the age and species diversity of our forests and introduce more areas of broadleaf trees. It will allow us to create riparian zones around streams and plan for the impacts of climate change.

Timber

When the bark is removed, the timber from infected trees can still be used within the Department's Sawmill for post-wood, sawn timber products and biomass fuel.

Larch is not native to the British Isles, but it has long been an important component of many timber producing forests.



Natural regeneration of native vegetation: rowan (resilient) and blaeberry (at risk)



Infected larch clearly visible

Larch trees cover 500 hectares in the Isle of Man and account for 20% of the Public Forestry Estate