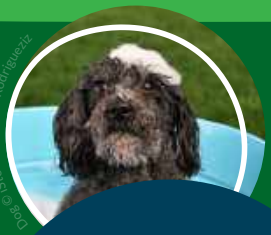
For more information

Tel: 0300 067 6600
Email: enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot



Remember, dirt carried on footwear, wheels and animals can spread tree diseases from one place to another.

You can help! Keep it clean.

You can help keep the forests healthy. Before visiting any forest, anywhere, just make sure you've cleaned your shoes, your bike and your four legged friend. Together we can help control the spread of forest disease.

keep it clean

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Larch Disease in Argyll Forest Park

Phytophthora ramorum was first found in larch trees in Argyll forest park in 2016. The disease killed areas of larch here very quickly, and has the potential to expand and kill more. To help prevent the further spread of the disease these trees have to be felled.

Forests are adaptable and resilient and because of this Argyll Forest Park has a great future

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Tree Felling

Statutory Plant Health Notices mean we will have to fell, and will continue to fell infected larch trees to try and prevent the spread of this disease.

The timber we cut may still be useful for construction, fencing, panel products and so on.

When we have finished the larch felling here the forest will be able to start to recover and will be managed under the normal forest management techniques. We appreciate you working with us and your patience whilst this work has been ongoing.

Disease Facts

Phytophthora ramorum is a **fungus like infection** that affects more than 1**50 plant species**, including Rhododendron and blaeberry, its especially destructive on larch trees and has the potential of killing many of the Argyll Forest Park larch within a year of infection.

P.ramorum is **not harmful to humans or animals.**

Infected larch needles produce spores that are carried by the wind in the mist and rain drops. This, together with **soil on footwear, wheels and animals**, spreads disease to other plants in other areas.

There's no cure - but felling infected trees helps control disease spread.

Roe Deer © Mark Hamblin 20:20 Vision

Nature bounces back

Nature is resilient. Forests have adapted to large disturbance by **wind, fire, disease or insect attack** from time to time. Woodland Ecosystems are good at repairing themselves. Felled areas will soon start to green up. We'll be replanting and using **natural regeneration** too, with a greater mix of broad-leaves and conifers than before.

The felled sites might look untidy for a time, but the wood and branches we've left provide **valuable habitats and nutrients** for new trees and other plants.

Wildlife still has a home. It looks dramatic - but we've only felled a **small percentage of the whole forest.**

We're dealing with other tree diseases too

Phytophthora ramorum isn't our only tree health issue in Scotland, we've also been dealing with **Dothistroma needle blight** in pine forests and other diseases too.

Tree diseases move around the world. It's not new - but climate change is one likely reason why foresters across the world are tackling an increasing number of tree health issues at once.