



***Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch**

Notification of suspect sites

As you know the quarantine organism *Phytophthora ramorum* has been found in Irish forests in a number of Japanese larch stands. A ground survey is currently underway with staff from the Department's Forestry Inspectorate and Coillte foresters and infected trees are being felled in accordance with the appropriate hygiene protocols. An aerial survey is also being conducted.

It is now approaching the period where larch will change colour naturally and will lose its needles and soon it will be extremely difficult to distinguish unhealthy larch from healthy larch.

If in the course of your work you observe larch that match the symptoms of the disease please notify the Department and a Forestry Inspector will visit the site. Please don't take any samples. Please see enclosed a document also available on the Department's website that describes photographically and in text the symptoms of the disease, hygiene measures to be observed and contact details.

Yours sincerely

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Minister of State