



### Why is the finding of *Ips typographus* in the south of England a concern in Ireland?

- The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is widespread across Europe, however it is absent from Ireland and was also absent from England up until this recent finding. *Ips typographus* can be a serious pest of spruce and reports indicate that 2018 was a particularly bad year for *Ips typographus* damage on continental Europe.
- The Irish forest estate comprises over approximately 52% of Sitka spruce, and 4% Norway spruce.
- The pathway of significant introduction potential of *Ips typographus* is through the importation of untreated wood with bark from areas where the pest is known to occur. This wood may be imported as a commodity or as Wood Packaging Material (WPM).

### Has *Ips typographus* ever been found in Ireland?

- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine conducts surveys annually for the presence of *Ips typographus* through a network of Fixed Observation Points situated in forests across the country. Over a long number of years of surveillance *Ips typographus* has never been detected in Irish forests.
- *Ips typographus* has been intercepted at Irish ports on a number of occasions associated with WPM which was immediately destroyed.

### What is the Department doing to prevent its introduction into Ireland?

The Forestry Inspectorate of the Department is responsible for implementing the forestry aspects of the EU Plant Health Directive, Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. The Forestry Inspectorate implements import provisions and inspections relating to timber, wood packaging material (pallets, crates etc), forest plants, Christmas trees and other forest products and surveys of the national forest estate for quarantine forest pests and diseases.

In recognition of Ireland's pest free status from six harmful bark beetles including *Ips typographus*, Ireland has protected zone status recognised by the Directive for these harmful pests and imposes stricter import requirements than would apply outside protected zones within the EU. Specifically coniferous wood with bark cannot be imported into Ireland from EU countries where these beetles are known to occur unless

- It is accompanied by an Official Statement to say the wood originates from an area known to be free from the pest OR
- The wood is free of bark OR
- The wood has been kiln dried to <20% M/C and is marked "KD".

As the presence of the pest in England increases the level of risk of its introduction into Ireland, the Department will carry out additional risk based surveys in Ireland to provide added assurance that the pest is not present or introduced.

### **Other Points**

- The location of this finding is Kent in the south of England. Three of the protected zone bark beetles are already known to occur in Great Britain, (and are absent from Ireland). Because of their presence there, the importation of coniferous wood with bark into Ireland from this area where this recent finding has been made is already prohibited (unless the wood has been kiln dried).
- The importation of roundwood with bark from GB to Ireland is permitted but only if it originates from the officially recognised Pest Free Area (PFA) in the south west Scotland and is accompanied by an Official Statement to attest to its origin. This Pest Free Area is routinely surveyed by the GB Authorities for the presence/absence of the regulated harmful bark beetles in order to maintain this PFA status.
- The Department is maintaining close liaison with UK (GB & NI) authorities.
- The Department will keep the outbreak under close review pending receipt of more information.
- As always, foresters, forest owners and other stakeholders are asked to be vigilant for unusual ill-health in trees and report any concerns to [forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie) or by using the Tree Check App which is freely available at: <https://www.treecheck.net/>
- Please also see <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dontriskit/>



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# The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) – Information Note



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*Ips typographus*. Photo credit: Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org



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Damage caused by *Ips typographus*. Photo credit: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org