



Forestry England



Case study

It all starts with a seed

A tree takes a lifetime to grow, and right now Forestry England are planning decades ahead by growing trees for the future.

We know we need to plant more trees, but where are they going to come from? Homegrown saplings are key to avoid importing new pests and diseases into the country.

We grow 12 million trees to replant forests and create new woodlands in England each year. Just like us, these young trees can pick up diseases. If these spread to other trees, they can cause devastating impacts. How do we make sure the trees we grow are healthy?



Kasia Lee is a biosecurity officer for Plant and Seed Supply Branch and she is based at Delamere nursery, which is the largest glasshouse for growing forest trees in the UK. Kasia explains what they do at Delamere to stop the spread of pests and disease.



Growing healthy trees

At Delamere nursery, we grow a wide range of tree species from seed and cuttings in the open nursery, polytunnels and the glasshouse. We make sure that staff working in the tree nursery receive training on biosecurity and plant health. We encourage all staff to spot and report pests and diseases when doing tasks like weeding, stock taking and processing (where we grade the quality of the seedling) before trees are dispatched across the country.

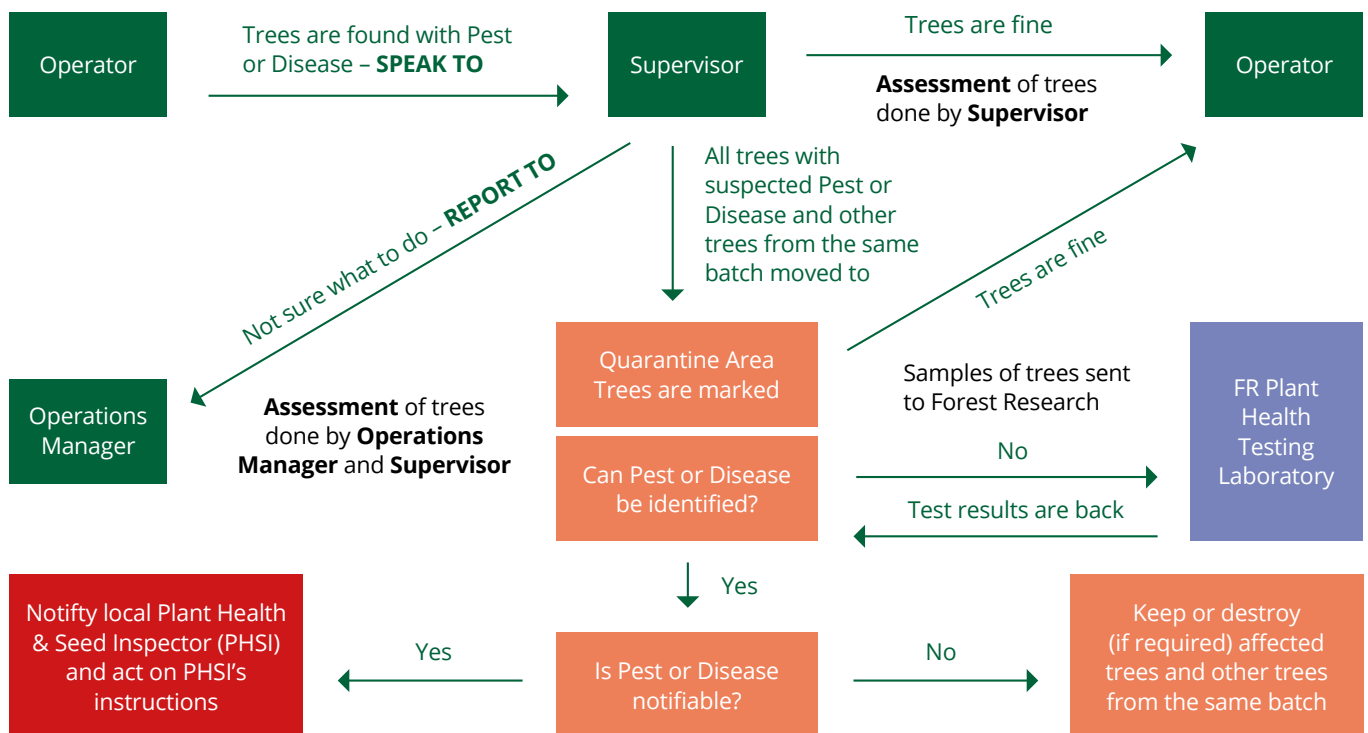
Nursery managers and supervisors regularly do walks through the crops and if they find any pests or diseases on trees then action is taken, for example, by treating the issue with pesticides. If they are not sure what pest or disease is found, samples are sent to Forest Research to investigate.



It is important that high standards of plant hygiene and biosecurity are kept. Vehicles and PPE (personal protective equipment) are washed and sterilised and regular checks of the wider environment around nursery sites are carried out.

To meet demand some different types of trees are bought from other tree nurseries. These trees are sourced from nurseries that can prove where they came from, that they follow biosecurity standards, and that they are being regularly checked by Plant Health Inspectors. We do not buy any trees that have been sown or grown outside of the UK. When trees arrive they are also checked by our staff.

Where any pest or disease is suspected or found when processing trees for orders the following procedure must be applied



Laws to protect plants

UK legislation requires plant material, including trees for planting, that is traded between UK businesses to have a 'plant passport'. All trees Forestry England produce have passports and have records of where the seeds or cuttings came from and where the trees have been grown. Our trees are inspected by Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) inspectors yearly. We are working towards Plant Healthy Management Standard (PHMS) and we are certified by the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme.

Keeping our forests healthy

Biosecurity is a combination of knowledge, observation and producing healthy plants. By growing strong and healthy trees, we give our trees the best chance of surviving.

Find out more about how we protect tree health in England:

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/blog/protecting-tree-health-england>

