HOW TO PREVENT PESTS & DISEASES

Five simple ways to prevent pests and diseases in your tree nursery

AVOID TREE STRESS

Trees are more vulnerable to diseases when they're stressed, so help them thrive

- Water well, but don't overwater
- Ensure they're planted with enough space to allow air flow and prevent fungi
- Stay on top of weeding
- Protect them from the sun and wind

BE CLEAN AND HEALTHY

Eliminate dirt and mess in your nursery

- Wash work surfaces after use
- Clean and disinfect tools regularly
- Clean pots before re-using
- Store pots and trays off the ground
- Keep your growing medium covered (in a sealed bag) and store it above the ground

All photos by Neil Aldridge *(unless stated)*

BE CAREFUL WITH COMPOST

Plant waste can harbour pests and diseases, but these steps will help stop them spreading

- Keep all your organic waste in one place that is separate from your main growing area, and ideally downhill from it
- Try 'hot composting' – heat kills weeds and pathogens

BE WATER WISE

Stored water can be contaminated by the spores of damaging plant pathogens

- Keep water butts covered with lids
- Clean water butts regularly
- If you collect roof water, regularly clean your roofs and gutters
- See if you can improve drainage on your site
- Look at how water flows through your nursery and then move your clean compost and plants uphill

Sweet chestnut blight

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LEARN THE SIGNS

It's important to identify and report outbreaks of tree pests and diseases quickly, so they can be eliminated or controlled. **Observatree** provides up-to-date information about new pest and disease threats. Scan the QR code below or visit www.observatree.org.uk.

To report suspected pests and diseases anywhere in the UK, scan the QR code below or visit **TreeAlert** at treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk.

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Research Centre Agroecology, Water and Resilience | Coventry University | Growing Connections | the tree council