



TRADER NOTICE No. 5 OF 2019

23rd July, 2019

To: All nurseries registered to issue plant passports and traders of *Quercus* plants

Subject: *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary Moth) awareness

Findings of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) in the UK

Ireland has a Protected Zone for OPM, which means that *Quercus* plants imported into Ireland must come from an area or site free from OPM. The UK has recently confirmed that a number of cases of OPM were intercepted on oak trees imported mainly from the Netherlands and Germany. Multiple suppliers of *Quercus* plants/trees were involved.

Our targeted surveillance continues and we would also urge any nurseries that have imported *Quercus* plants from other Member States in the last year to urgently check for signs of OPM and report any findings to this Department. The contact list of plant health inspectors is provided in Annex 1.

Risks associated with OPM

OPM defoliates and weakens Oak trees and are a hazard to human and animal health. Contact with the hairs can provoke allergic reactions manifested as skin rashes, conjunctivitis and respiratory problems such as pharyngitis and asthma. Health problems can occur even if the larvae are not handled as the hairs break off readily and are dispersed in air currents. Abandoned nests contain shed skins, pupal cases and vast numbers of detached hairs and should be treated with extreme caution.

Further information on OPM is available on the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine's (DAFM) website <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/planthealthandtrade/OPMOct2014031214.pdf>

In the event that you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact any of the plant health inspectors listed in Annex 1, or by emailing plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or alternatively by telephone (01) 5058885.

Yours sincerely

Horticulture and Plant Health Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



Annex 1

Contact Details for DAFM Plant Health Inspectors

Inspector	Contact details	Region
Con Collis	ConA.Collis@agriculture.gov.ie	Meath, Dublin, Louth & Kildare
Declan Kealy	Declan.Kealy@agriculture.gov.ie	Meath, Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow
Shane Kirk	Shane.Kirk@agriculture.gov.ie	Meath, Dublin, Louth & Kildare
Kieran Kelly	KieranP.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie	Laois, Westmeath, Offaly & North Tipperary
Padraig Flynn	Padraig.Flynn@agriculture.gov.ie	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, & Monaghan
Pat Morrisson	Pat.Morrisson@agriculture.gov.ie	Kilkenny, South Tipperary & Waterford
Dermot Grogan	Dermot.Grogan@agriculture.gov.ie	Cork, Kerry & Limerick,
Donal Bourke	Donal.Bourke@agriculture.gov.ie	Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Longford & Clare
Michael Cullen	Michael.Cullen@agriculture.gov.ie	Wexford, Carlow