

Closing the gaps

National strategies for integrated urban plant health



A Six key messages



Shared responsibility

Plant health and urban forestry still work in separate silos.



EU law needs partners

Urban surveys and eradication need authorities and towns together.



Due diligence

Importers and nurseries check and document pest risk.



Sentinel planting

Bait plants spot new pests before outbreaks take hold.



Product harmonisation

A treatment approved in one country may be missing next door.



EU framing

Links to biodiversity and restoration goals unlock support and funds.

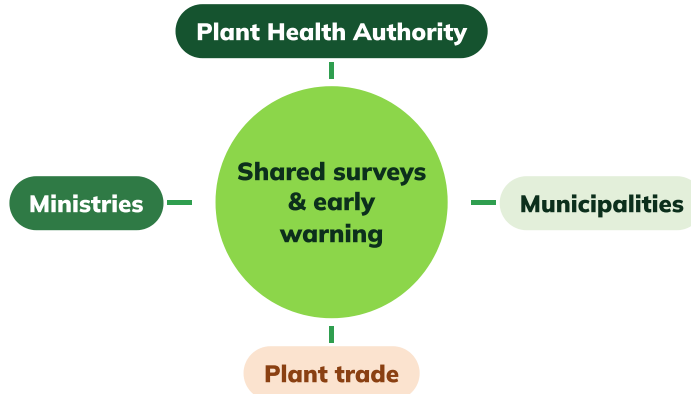
B From silos to one system

TODAY: SEPARATE SILOS



Surveys miss cities. Towns miss tools, data and legal backing.

GOAL: ONE BIOSECURITY CONTINUUM



C How sentinel planting works

1

Plant host species near ports, freight areas and nursery zones



2

Inspect regularly with trained surveyors or citizen scientists



3

Add findings to national official surveys



4

Report to the Commission under Regulation 2016/2031

Urban parks make ideal sentinel sites: public, busy and run by staff who can be trained. Already running in the UK, Italy and North America.

What governments can change now

D Due diligence in the plant trade

IMPORTERS AND LARGE NURSERIES SHOULD

- 1 Assess and document the pest risk of sourcing regions and species
- 2 Keep phytosanitary certificates and plant passports on record
- 3 Report suspected non-compliance to national authorities



Precedent: EU Timber and Deforestation Regulations · **Pilots:** the Netherlands and the UK · **Tool:** public pest and host risk registers

E The plant protection product gap



Member State A

Product authorised against the pest

Same urban pest



Member State B

No legal treatment option

Report gaps to EFSA and the European Commission

Mutual recognition under Regulation (EC) 1107/2009

Emergency authorisation when no product exists

F Three ministries, one coordinator

Agriculture & plant health

Environment & nature

Urban planning & local government

National coordinator or cross-ministerial working group

Urban tree health indicators in national biodiversity monitoring

Targets for survey coverage, response times and product availability

FRAME IT AS EU POLICY, UNLOCK FUNDS

EU LIFE

EAFRD

Cohesion Funds

Open to programmes linked with biodiversity and restoration, not to plant health alone.

EU INSTRUMENTS IN PLAY

Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031

Plant Protection Products Reg. (EC) 1107/2009

Biodiversity and Forest Strategies 2030

Nature Restoration Law (EU) 2024/1991