



A global network of botanic gardens, arboreta, plant health institutes and National Plant Protection Organisations working together to provide an early warning system for new and emerging pest and pathogen threats



The **International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN)** aims to provide an early warning system to identify new and emerging pest and pathogen risks to plants. The IPSN is a developing network of both national and international partnerships lining plant protection scientists and botanic and arboreta around the world.

### The IPSN will:

- Develop standardised methodologies for monitoring and surveying for damaging plant pests and pathogens;
- Provide training materials to increase capacity among member gardens;
- Seek and share examples of best practise;
- Facilitate access to diagnostic support;
- Develop databases in order to share and store information; and
- Facilitate communication between botanic gardens, arboreta and personnel working within plant health in the local area.

### Background

Identifying potential threats to plant species before a pest is introduced can drastically improve the success of eradication or management programmes. It may even be possible to stop their introduction in the first place. A big problem in identifying these plant health risks is that the most serious invasive pests do not cause a problem in their native habitats. This is where sentinel plants can help.

### Sentinel Plants

Plant species maintained outside of their natural ranges (e.g. in botanic gardens and arboreta) offer a unique opportunity to understand and predict potential threats to plant health. So-called sentinels can be monitored for damage by pests present in their current location, but which are not currently introduced into the sentinel's country of origin.

Monitoring sentinels can help identify potential future threats, as well as provide vital information about key organisms already identified as a risk.

### Benefits for members


The IPSN provides a number of benefits to member gardens including:

- Building capacity in pest and disease surveying;
- monitoring and diagnosis;
- Contribution to international biosecurity efforts; and
- Professional development and networking opportunities;

The network will also utilise the scientific and research significance that living collections have to offer and illustrate a commitment to plant conservation worldwide.



To find out more and how to become a member please go to: [www.plantsentinel.org](http://www.plantsentinel.org)

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