

Forest Health Survey focus on risks threatening our tree species

Surveying New Zealand's plantation forests for new insect or fungal introductions as well as forest health condition has been done on a formal basis for over a decade.

This survey was formalised by the NZ Forest Owners' Association based on a model known as the Carter Model. This model determines survey intensity based on the risk of new introductions becoming established in the country within biological regions, giving a detection rate per region of finding that new introduction.

In the past this survey has been done by the Ministry of Forestry Forest Health Officers and the NZFOA has encouraged all of its members to participate to ensure that the forests remain free of unwanted pests. With the merger of Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest Health Surveillance Group was sold off to Forest Research and as a result the survey work made contestable.

Now, after a long tender process, there are two companies who will be carrying out this work for forest owners. They are Forest Health Dynamics Ltd and VIGIL. Each company has been given set biological regions to survey, following strict guidelines set by the Carter Model to ensure that the 84.2% detection level is met.

All participating forest health officers have

qualifications and experience in this work as well as extensive forestry technical background which will enhance the quality of the survey. Strict auditing procedures have been put in place by the FOA to ensure that the guidelines and detection level is met. This contestability has brought about a cost reduction for many forest owners with a specific emphasis on detection of new introductions.

Forest health conditioning reports are still part of the survey but now meet the needs of individual forest owners who may wish extra requirements for their estate.

Two other components of the survey are:

- Diagnostics services and maintenance of the National Forest Health Database by the Forest Health Group at Forest Research; and
- a research levy for the NZ Forest Health Research Collaborative.

These components amount to \$0.32 per hectare. The survey cost per Biological Region varies around the country due to the level of surveillance required as given by the Carter Model.

For more information on the National Forest Health Survey contact:

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Health research group forum to combat forest threats

The New Zealand Forest Health Research Collaborative (NZFHRC) was set up in 1996 with a forest health research levy from the New Zealand Forest Owners Association (NZFOA). This levy is collected as part of the cost of the National Forest Health Surveillance programme, which is an annual assessment to detect new forest introductions and to track the movement of established introductions through the country.

The NZFHRC consists of Research Providers, Service Providers, NZFOA members and other members (DoC, MAF), but is open to any individual or organisation with an interest in forest health. The mission of the NZFHRC is to provide solutions to forest health problems of common relevance to members, through cost effective research and technology transfer, to minimise the effect of pests and diseases on trees, forest, and wood.

The Collaborative achieves its mission through:

- sponsoring workshops and site visits;
- providing simple mechanisms to facilitate research and information transfer;
- providing a forum within which to identify, prioritise and attract funds for research and information transfer;
- providing a common meeting ground for interested parties including the forestry sector, researchers and

overseas specialists;

- identifying forest health issues and research needs.

The NZFHRC has a website which is hosted by Landcare Research. The site address is <http://www.fhrc.org.nz>

Completed Projects:

- "Assessing the potential for detecting forest health problems using remote sensing." Research Providers: Landcare Research and Forest Research
- "A strategy for the management of pine pitch canker." Research Provider: Forest Research
- "Field handbook for pests and diseases of radiata pine." Research Provider: Forest Research. Available for purchase from Forest Research, Rotorua.
- "Multiple-entry keys for identification of aphids of N.Z. forest trees." Research Provider: Crop & Food Research, Website address: <http://www.landcare.cri.nz/science/nzpddb/>
- Database of New Zealand plant diseases. Research Provider: Landcare Research. Website address www.landcare.cri.nz/science/nzpddb/
- "Swiss needles cast of Douglas-fir - a review." Research Provider: Forest Research
- "Sphaeropsis sapinea (Diplodia pinea) - a review." Research Provider: Forest Research
- "Cyclaneusma needle-cast bulletin." Research

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