

DO YOU OWN, MANAGE OR KNOW OF SPRUCE TREES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

If so, they could be at risk of infestation by the highly destructive tree pest *Ips typographus*.



Breeding gallery

Pests and diseases are a continual threat to the health of trees and woodlands. The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is a serious pest of spruce trees, and we need your help to deal with it.

If this pest becomes established in England, it will have a major impact on our environment and wood-based industries. By actively managing woodlands, we can increase their resilience, protect them against future threats and prevent this and other pests from spreading further afield.



Windblown, snapped, stressed trees

Recently windblown, snapped, stressed, dying and sawn trees are particularly susceptible to infestation. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Forestry Commission encourage proactive management of spruce to remove or reduce the risk of beetle establishment. [Watch our video guide for more information.](#)

Ips typographus was first identified in Kent in 2018, with further outbreaks found in the South East in 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024, also in 2024 breeding populations were found in East Anglia. An extensive surveillance programme is in place to locate and eradicate all *Ips typographus* establishments.



Ips typographus



Spruce trees

Control measures exist in the *Ips typographus* Demarcated Area (DMA) for spruce to be inspected and authorised before any forestry operations. If you are in the DMA you need to:

1. Monitor your spruce and remove stressed, dead and dying material wherever possible.
2. For any planting, movement, felling or other forest operations on spruce, all landowner or managers must seek authorisation from the Forestry Commission.
3. Report any suspect findings to TreeAlert.
4. Conduct swift destruction of any spruce timber that is left in situ, either by burning or chipping, especially in the *Ips typographus* flight season (April – September).

All Landowners or managers looking to stack timber in situ to season (dry out) must also seek authorisation first from the Forestry Commission before adopting any approach of timber stacking.

Guidance and information on support can be found on the GOV.UK *Ips typographus* webpage. Grants are available through the [Tree Health Pilot scheme](#) to manage or fell your spruce trees, restock your woodland and maintain your newly planted trees.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk:



Please submit any reports of susceptible spruce to TreeAlert using the QR code.

