

Plant Health Conference Programme

Plant collections and their importance in enabling ground breaking collaborative research

17th October 2018, 10:00 - 16:00
 Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ

Objectives

Tree health is increasing in its importance with growing numbers of pests and pathogens having a significant impact on the UK's trees and forests. The Living Ash Project sought to identify and secure ash trees that showed tolerance to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* so as to use them in a future breeding programme.

This conference will present the results of the Living Ash Project and report on some exciting new research approaches using genomic selection for identifying characteristics such as disease tolerance, faster growth or superior timber quality. The research collaborations have relied upon access to collections of trees, and the need for collections such as Paradise Wood will be highlighted.

10:00	Refreshments and Registration	
10:30	Welcome and overview	Dr Jayne Manley Chief Executive, Earth Trust
10:40	The role of tree health research in ensuring the resilience of our treescape	Lord Gardiner of Kimble Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity
10:50	Forestry perspective: The value of trees to our society, the role of research and how we need to think differently	Sir Harry Studholme Chair of the Forestry Commission
11:10	The Living Ash Project: Introduction and overview	Dr Jo Clark Earth Trust
11:25	Findings from the Living Ash Project	Dr Jo Clark and Living Ash Project Partners (Earth Trust, Forestry Research, Sylva Foundation, Future Trees Trust)
11.45	Traditional plant breeding meets 21 st Century genomics: Could disease tolerance genes give new life to Ash?	Prof Richard Buggs Queen Mary University and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
12:00	New tree resilience and ash dieback research strategies	Lisa Smith Defra
12.15	Summary of the morning - Questions - Key points to carry over lunch and into the afternoon	Dr Mary Barkham Trustee of Earth Trust
12.30	Lunch Future Research – important questions	All

13:20	The value of tree collections: Structure for the afternoon	Dr Jayne Manley Earth Trust
13.30	Making a future from the past: Herbaria are central to conserving biodiversity in the face of major, urgent environmental change	Prof Stephen Harris University of Oxford
13.55	The role for collections: Objectives and achievements of the UK National Tree Seed Project and what makes a good collection	Clare Trivedi Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
14:20	Conclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paradise Wood and Earth Trust Trees - Collections: The opportunity 	Dr Jayne Manley and Dr Mary Barkham Earth Trust
14.45	Walking workshop: Paradise Wood, Broad Arboretum and Neptune Wood Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we identify the collections we need to maintain and care for? - How can we make plant collections more accessible for researchers, for engaging people in the key challenges we face 	Earth Trust
16:00	Tea and end of conference	