

## A quick and easy guide on the prohibition of planting spruce within the *Ips typographus* Demarcated Area

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is a serious pest of spruce and we need your help to deal with it. All landowners, managers and timber processors should remain vigilant for *Ips typographus*. Any suspected findings of *Ips typographus* can be reported to the Forestry Commission.

The *Ips typographus* Demarcated Area Notice imposes a prohibition on the planting of spruce trees (*Picea* genus) within the south-east of England and East Anglia. This control measure aims to limit the volume of host material available for *Ips typographus* within the high-risk areas for the beetle blowing over from the continent. This prohibition has built-in exemptions for specified circumstances of planting.

### There are new restrictions for planting spruce trees. What does this mean for you?



### Additional Q&A

#### Who does this apply to?

The spruce planting restriction introduced within the revised Notice applies to those planting spruce within the current demarcated area unless they meet the exemption criteria. This includes all landowners, land managers and professional operators.

#### What do I do if I am growing spruce for other reasons? e.g. foliage, seed stands

Exemptions from the prohibition on planting spruce are in place under the specified circumstances listed within the Notice. These include exemptions for dwarf varieties of spruce, as well as for ornamental or scientific purposes, for the purpose of trade at nursery sites or for the purpose of trade in Christmas trees.

You can check eligibility for exemptions from this restriction within the Notice, by visiting [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) or by speaking to Forestry Commission plant health inspector. For authorisation to plant spruce trees within the demarcated area, beyond the scope of the existing exemptions, please contact: [ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

#### What is ornamental planting?

Ornamental planting consists of any planting of trees for the purpose of recreational use that does not have an additional function other than display, decorative or aesthetic purposes.

#### What planting is ineligible for written authorisation and will not be approved?

Planting of spruce that would be considered commercial timber planting will not be permitted within the demarcated area under authorisation. Additionally, planting of spruce for use as a nurse crop, windbreak or shelterbelt will not be permitted.

#### What if I want to apply for authorisation to plant spruce within the Demarcated Area?

For authorisation to plant spruce trees within the demarcated area, beyond the scope of the existing exemptions, please contact: [ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:ipstypographus.authorisation@forestrycommission.gov.uk). Any written authorisations for exceptional circumstances are granted on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to conditions set out in an authorisation letter provided by the Forestry Commission. Please speak to the Forestry Commission to check eligibility for authorisations before applying.

#### What alternative species can be planted instead of spruce?

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) expects any species used to protect and enhance the features of the site, where tree species should reflect the soils and climate of a site. Landowners should consider which tree species are well suited to the ecology of a site, most resilient to any pests and diseases that may be prevalent in the area, and resilient to the impacts of climate change, including drought and windblow. Landowners can seek advice from their local Woodland Officer or professional foresters and it's recommended that the [Ecological Site Classification decision support tool](#) is used to aid species choice locally.

Further information on what alternative species can be planted instead of spruce can be found by visiting [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

For more information about *Ips typographus* including how to report sightings visit our [guidance page on GOV.UK](#)

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission)