Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Contingency planning and Outbreak management

Nia Meddins
Plant Health Policy Lead

What does contingency planning involve?

The contingency planning process can basically be broken down into three simple questions:

- What is going to happen?
- What are we going to do about it?
- What can we do ahead of time to get prepared?

Potential Challenges Ahead….

Pests & Diseases..

Benefits of Contingency Planning

- Allow a quicker response.
- Allows time to think through different options.
- A tool for making stakeholders aware of and give stakeholders a chance to influence what action may be taken.
- Can highlight gaps in current arrangements; e.g. The lack of pesticide approvals

Questions for contingency plans

- Why? - explanation of why action is necessary.
- Who? – which people / agencies will be responsible and how will they co-ordinate.
- What? – actions to be taken – communication, surveys, pest management, movement restrictions.
- When? – how quickly to take actions, time of year to take them and how long they will last for.
- How? – equipment needed, protocols, training.

- **Generic Contingency Plan**

Outlines general arrangements and organisation to deal with an outbreak of any major pest.

- **Pest Specific Contingency Plan**

Specific information and guidance on how to deal with a particular major pest.

- **Incident Action Plans**

How a team is going to respond to a particular outbreak.
i.e. What tasks are to be done, who is going to do them and when they are going to be done by.

Generic contingency plans can be used to:

- Describe the legal basis for taking action against pests.
- Give the reasons why we need to take action to eradicate or contain pests.
- Give details of the agencies that are responsible for eradication action in a country.
- Describe how these agencies work together and what their different responsibilities are.

What should be in a generic Plant Health plan?

- Initiation of a plan including official action on a presumptive diagnosis
- Official actions to eradicate the pest after final diagnosis
- Review of measures in case of prolonged official action
- Command structure
- Stakeholder consultation
- Internal communications and documentation
- External communications
- Testing and training personnel
- Evaluation and revision of contingency plan

Multi Agency Approach

defra
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

- co-ordination of UK policy
- International representation
- Administers UK PH risks register

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

- Operational management of tree health in wales
- Management of the impact of pests and diseases is a key role.

- Participate in UK decision making
- Devolved implementation

Forest Research

Forestry Commission

- Participate in UK decision making
- Forestry/wood implementation

fera
The Food and Environment Research Agency

- Diagnostics for England and Wales

Animal & Plant Health Agency

-inspectorate for England and Wales

Generic Elements?

Initiation of the plan

- How serious is the finding?
- What information needs to be collected straight away?
- Who would triage the finding?

Command Structure

- Who's in charge
- Roles & responsibilities
- Documentation
- Evaluation

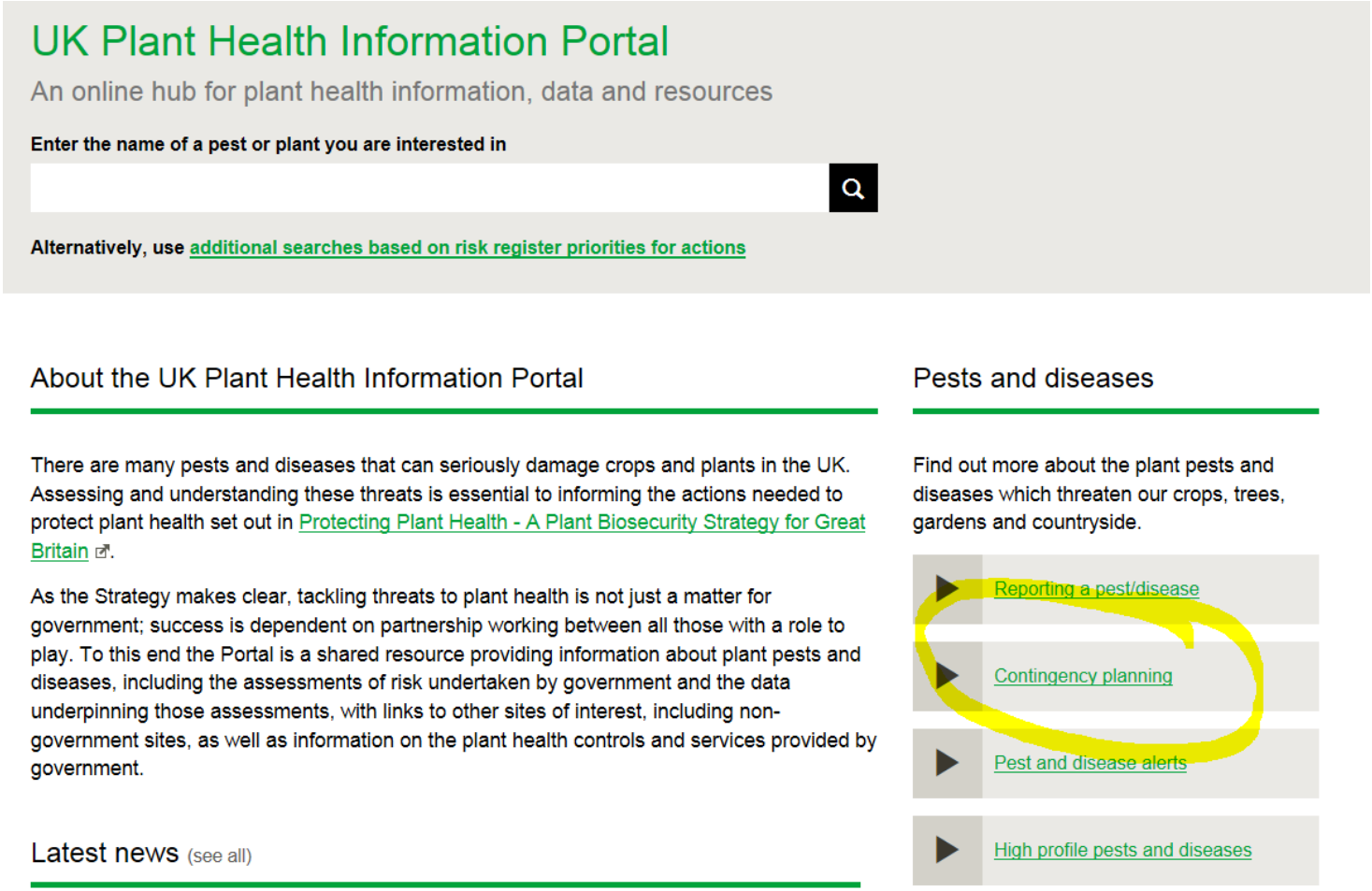
How Serious is a finding?

ALERT	STATUS	COMMAND LEVEL
White	Plant pest/disease with potential for limited geographical spread	Instigation of Incident Management Plan involving **Operational** command at appropriate level and follow Standard Operating Procedures or scientific advice where applicable
Black	**Significant** plant pest/disease with potential for limited geographical spread	Instigation of Incident Management Plan usually involving **joint Tactical and Operational** command at appropriate level and follow plant pest/disease specific response plans where applicable
Amber	**Serious** plant pest/disease with potential for relatively **slow but extensive spread** leading to host death and/or **major** economic, food security or environmental **impacts**	Instigation of Incident Management Plan usually involving **joint Strategic and Tactical** command and follow plant pest/disease specific response plans where applicable
Red	**Serious or Catastrophic** plant pest/disease with potential for **rapid and extensive geographical spread** leading to host death and/or **major** economic, food security or environmental **impacts**	Instigation of Incident Management Plan involving **Strategic, Tactical and Operational** command and follow plant pest/disease specific response plans where applicable

Triaging?

- An ad hoc group put together quickly in response to a notification composed of Plant Health Service (PHS) officials and specialists, as appropriate.
- The group will assess the report using a set of standard questions.
- If the alert status is confirmed as either Black, Amber or Red the as decision will be taken to nominate the control authority, decide on command level and indicate the scale of response required.

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/



Definitions

The five basic terms to describe a type of exercise are:

- Workshops
- Drill/Training
- Table top
- Functional
- Full-Scale

Workshops

- A low stress, non-threatening event that does not follow real time
- Tends to concentrate on process related issues and with the focus on training and familiarisation of roles and responsibilities
- It is designed to elicit constructive discussion
- The general purpose is to introduce plans, policies, procedures and start resolving questions of coordination and responsibility

Drill/Training

- Designed to test, develop and maintain skills in an emergency response function

- They often have an office or field component and may be driven by a simple scenario

Table Top

- An informal discussion using a simple simulated scenario
- There is no time pressure although the technique of scenario time jumps may be used
- The purpose is to evaluate plans, policies, procedures and to resolve questions of coordination and responsibility

Functional

- More advanced rehearsals and table tops, usually in preparation for full-scale exercises
- Emergency response tasks and functions will be rehearsed and tested and may include the establishment of an Incident Management Team and Emergency Operations Centre but this will not involve a full mobilisation
- They are realistic, tend to take place in real time and are often stressful
- May include Operational Partners and Stakeholders

Full-Scale

- Intended to thoroughly test and evaluate contingency plans, procedures and instructions and the emergency operational capability of the organisation

- It will include using Incident Management Systems in an interactive manner and will run over a substantial period of time

- It is driven by a detailed scenario with a supporting data set and results in a highly realistic and often stressful exercise environment