

# Pest Alert: Plane lace bug (*Corythucha ciliata*)



**Figure 1** Adult plane lace bug © Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org



**Figure 2** Many adults on lower surface of a plane leaf © James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



**Figure 3** Heavily infested trees result in the whole leaf becoming chlorotic and dropped early © Chris Malumphy, Fera Science Ltd.



**Figure 4** Moderately infested leaves are less likely to be dropped, but often exhibit 'bronzing' © Chris Malumphy, Fera Science Ltd.

- The **plane lace bug** is native to North America and is now widespread in mainland Europe. It mainly **feeds on the leaves of plane (*Platanus*) trees** and adults and nymphs occur on the lower leaf surface.
- Two populations of plane lace bugs were found in Bedfordshire in 2006 but **have not been seen in the UK since**.
- Feeding by plane lace bugs causes the leaves to show chlorotic stippling (light coloured marks) near leaf veins. Large populations can cause the whole leaf to become chlorotic (lighter coloured) or bronzed and leaves will drop off the tree earlier than they normally would.
- The plane lace bug is most likely to come into the United Kingdom by **hitchhiking** on transportation (i.e. vehicles, ships, trains, lorries) but could also arrive on imported plane trees.
- The best time to spot plane lace bugs is in late summer, look for lighter leaves and leaf-less trees.
- The lace bugs can cause a mild rash in humans if found in large numbers on trees above

**If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).**



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs  
[www.rdg.gov.uk](http://www.rdg.gov.uk)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

**For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:**

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)

**For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:**

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, email: [hort.marketing@gov.scot](mailto:hort.marketing@gov.scot)

**For Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:**

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: [planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>

**For finds in the wider environment:**

In GB, please use Tree Alert: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

For NI, please use TreeCheck: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck>