

# Plant health status of *Fagus* spp. (FAGUSTAT)



## Funding

Mixed funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 179 000

## Research consortium

ILVO (BE), NVWA (NL), SFI (SI), KIS (SI), Fera (GB)

## Contact information

Project coordinator: Nicole Viaene  
[nicole.viaene@ilvo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:nicole.viaene@ilvo.vlaanderen.be)

## Goals

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is a new disease that was first detected in Ohio, USA, in 2012, on American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Since then, it has been reported in 5 other north-eastern states (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts), as well as in Canada (Ontario). Recently, EPPO drew the attention of the National Plant Protection Organizations to BLD for the potential risks it may represent for the forestry and ornamental sectors. The goals of this project is to increase awareness of BLD in Europe, to make a first assessment of its presence/absence in the region and to investigate possible ways of entry and spread.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- To survey *Fagus* spp. for symptoms of BLD in forests, parks, botanical gardens and nurseries,
- To collect data for the assessment of the risk of introduction and spread of BLD in Europe
- To study the biology of *Litylenchus crenatae* and the epidemiology of BLD under European climatic conditions
- To investigate the microbial community of symptomatic and asymptomatic buds and leaves using HTS
- To create public awareness on the disease