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Enhancing detection of tree pests and diseases through targeted courses for professionals

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Why organize courses on regulated tree pests and diseases for professionals?

- **Early detection** of quarantine pests is crucial for successful eradication
- Forest quarantine pests are usually introduced into urban areas before they reach forests → **professionals working in the management of green spaces can contribute to early detection if they can recognize them**
- Information about quarantine pests, the symptoms they cause and the obligation to report findings is limited in professional training for relevant professions such as landscape gardeners
- Aside from *Anoplophora glabripennis*, no quarantine pests of trees are present in CH → **Many quarantine pests are not well known**

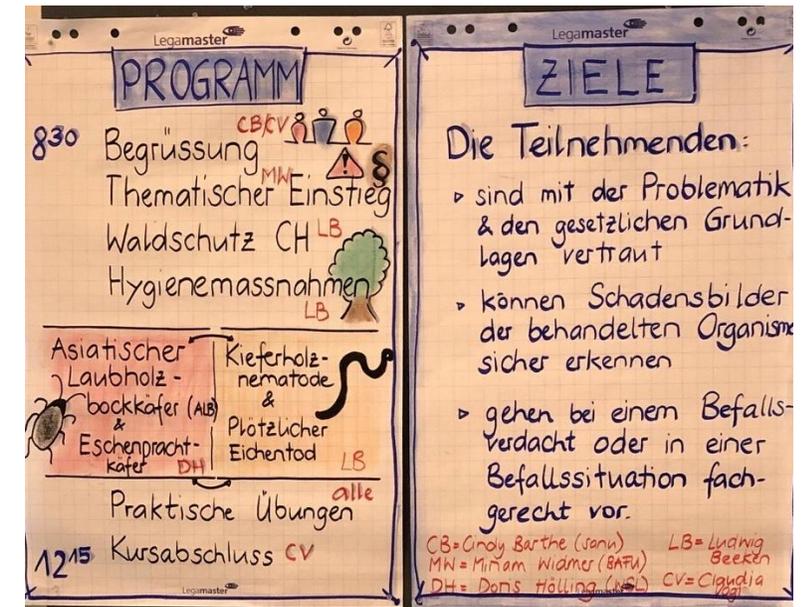




Aims and target audience

- **Target audience:** professionals working on the maintenance of trees and greens spaces (landscape gardeners, employees of communes or regions)

- **Aims of the course:** The participants ...
 - ...are familiar with the issue and the legal obligations
 - ...can recognize the most relevant forest quarantine pests and the symptoms they cause
 - ... know what to do and who to contact in case of a suspected infestation





Organization of the course

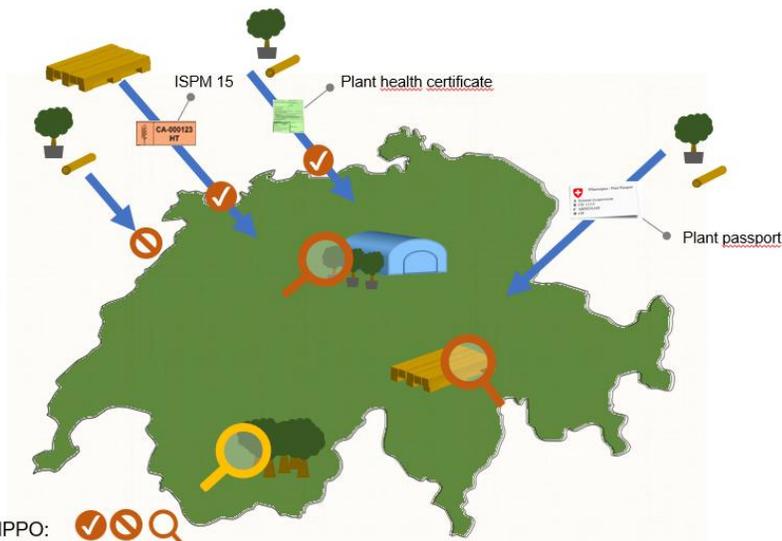
- We contracted a company that specializes in organizing trainings → **administrative tasks and advertising is taken care of by communication experts**
- So far, courses were conducted in 2018, 2023 and 2025 in all official languages
- Courses last for half a day and consist of **three parts with presentations and excercises**
- Participants have to register in advance and pay a small fee
- **Presentation and exercises are given by experts** in policy, forest entomology and pathology





First part: basic information

- What are quarantine pests, how are they introduced and why can they establish?
- Obligation to report suspected infestations or findings of quarantine pests
- The Swiss NPPO and Swiss Forest Protection (WSS) and competencies regarding regulated plant pests
- Measures against the introduction and spread of quarantine pests





Second part: forest quarantine pests and the symptoms they cause

- Presentation on **insects**: *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *A. chinensis*, *Agrilus planipennis*
- Presentation on **nematodes & fungi**: *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, *Fusarium circinnatum*, *Phytophthora ramorum*

→ Biology, symptoms, pathways etc.



ALB: Erkennungsmerkmale



Körperlänge:
20-37 mm

Flügeldecken:
glatt, glänzend schwarz

Fühler:
schwarz/ graublau geringelt

Schildchen:
dunkel gefärbt





Third part: excercises

- Participants are split into three groups and rotate between three exercises:
 1. **Identifying pests and diseases** (based on pictures)
 2. **How to proceed if a quarantine pest is found** (choosing the correct actions from a variety of possibilities)
 3. **Selecting adequate equipment** when working on a potentially infested tree (based on pictures)
- Results are discussed after every exercise





Lessons learned

- If funds are available, contracting a company to organize the course **lessens the workload on NPPO employees**
- Short presentations followed by practical exercises **drive the key messages home**
- Planning sufficient **time for questions and feedback** helps optimize the course





To sum up...

- Courses for professionals working on the management of green spaces can enhance early detection of quarantine pests, as participants...
 - ...learn how to recognize quarantine pests and the symptoms they cause
 - ...know where to report suspected infestations





Thank you!

Questions?

