



**Environmental
Pillar**

Working for a sustainable future

Originally published 01/03/2024; delivered with signatures on 01/07/2024

Open Letter to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the Risk of *Erwinia amylovora* (Fireblight) from Hawthorn Imports for ACRES.

Dear Minister McConalogue,

We are writing to you regarding the risk of *Erwinia amylovora* (Fireblight) from *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) imports for ACRES. Ireland is still managing the fallout from Ash Dieback, which was most likely introduced through imports from EU Member States. We must not make the same mistake with the present danger posed by Fireblight. This is categorised as a Protected Zone quarantine plant pest to ensure “Irish biosecurity and preserve our favourable plant health status”¹. Its threat is assessed under Ireland’s Plant Health Generic Contingency Plan, which states that “at any stage during the management of a finding or outbreak, the degree of risk can be re-classified in the light of new information, sample results, technical advice or developments”². We are concerned that the threat to Ireland’s hedgerow heritage has not been adequately considered in assigning Fireblight’s alert status.

Fireblight is known to enter through latent infections on imported plants and is suited to our temperate climate, being widespread in Northern Ireland and confirmed by DAFM in 17 outbreaks across 11 counties in 2023^{3,4}. Nevertheless, ACRES Circular 27 removed the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirement for Hawthorn (which may compose up to 85% of ACRES hedgerow planting)^{5,6}. The high demand for imports therefore increases the disease risk for Fireblight’s common hosts—*Cotoneaster*, Hawthorn, apple, pear, and rowan—spread through multiple pathways such as pollination, wind, rain, and mechanical equipment³. Importing trees also reduces Ireland’s ability to safeguard the genetic diversity of native tree species, which it committed to under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Any failure to arrest the spread will result in significant impacts on Ireland’s natural and cultural heritage due to the loss of Hawthorn hedgerows—a refuge for wildlife and a distinctive feature of our landscape. For example, this species composed 88% of hedgerows in the County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022⁷. The rapid spread of Fireblight will be devastating to our hedgerow network, as both the infected plant and all nearby host plants must be burnt or buried^{2,4}. Evidence can be seen in Germany, where outbreaks between 1972 to 2000 resulted in the removal of 812km of Hawthorn hedgerows⁸. In

¹ DAFM (2023) Pest Risk Analysis Unit – Plant Pest Factsheets
www.gov.ie/en/publication/7b101-pest-risk-analysis-unit-plant-pest-risk-register-factsheets/

² DAFM (2023) Ireland’s Plant Health Generic Contingency Plan, Ver. 1, Dec. 2023

³ DAFM (2023) DAFM Plant Pest Factsheet: *Erwinia amylovora* Fireblight

⁴ McConalogue, C. (2024) Dáil Éireann Debate. Question 396, Wednesday 7th February 2024.

⁵ DAFM (2022) Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Specification for Tranche 1

⁶ DAFM (2023) ACRES Circular No. 27, Amendment to Planting a New Hedgerow specification for Tranche 1 & 2, and NPIs

⁷ Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants (2022). County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022, Kildare County Council.

⁸ Peil, A. et al. (2009) Improvement of Fire Blight Resistance in Apple and Pear. International J. of Plant Breeding.

recent decades, Irish farmers have planted approximately 1400km, 600km, and 1300km in REPS, AEOS, and GLAS, respectively^{9,10}. An additional 2000km are estimated to be planted in ACRES¹¹. With a payment of €5/metre/year (5 year schemes), this would equal roughly €132.5m paid to plant farm hedgerows—mostly Hawthorn—which may be wasted if these are lost to Fireblight.

Similar to roadside trees with Ash Dieback, there will be costs associated with the removal and disposal of affected Hawthorn hedgerows, plus their replacement with new trees and fences to maintain a stock-proof barrier on farms. The Fireblight Disease Order 1964 obligates landowners to notify DAFM of suspected infections and destroy specified trees¹². However, they may not volunteer information without accompanying government funding to cover costs. If Fireblight spreads, the need for more DAFM inspections will also increase staffing costs. In addition to hedgerow impacts, Ireland's €131m apple industry would suffer long-term financial losses, as Fireblight is “not only destructive to the current year's crop but also extremely dangerous to the plants themselves”^{13,14}.

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) states that the most effective mitigation strategy is to impose “strict phytosanitary measures on imported host plant material and to maintain vigilance in orchards and nurseries”, as well as place plant import bans in high-risk countries¹³. In light of this guidance and the Precautionary Principle of Sustainable Development, we ask DAFM, as the Competent Authority for plant health in Ireland, to:

1. Reinstate the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirements for Hawthorn in ACRES hedgerow planting and delay planting actions until the demand-supply gap is filled.
2. Suspend imports of Hawthorn plants due to the potential risk of importing disease.
3. Clarify how natural and cultural hedgerow heritage was assessed when deciding the Generic Contingency Plan's alert status for Fireblight. If this was not assessed, raise the alert status and establish a Co-Ordination Group including ecologists to address all risks to Ireland's hedgerows.
4. Continue to promote funding for native tree nurseries under the Seed Stand & Seed Orchard Schemes plus the Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector Scheme.

Hedgerows Ireland CLG promotes the conservation and nature-friendly management of hedgerows. It is funded by the Irish Environmental Network and the Heritage Council.

An Taisce, as Ireland's National Trust, advocates for sustainable planning and policy, delivers educational programmes, and preserves heritage properties and nature reserves for the Irish public.

The Environmental Pillar works to represent the views of 32 of Ireland's leading environmental NGOs and is supported by the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications.

Endorsed by the list of almost 1500 signatures below, as of 01/07/2024.

⁹ Hedgerows Ireland (2016) Minutes from Meeting with DAFM over Hedgerow Measures in GLAS. www.hedgerows.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2016-Meeting-with-DAFM-over-Hedgerow-Measures-in-GLAS.pdf

¹⁰ Donnelly, M. (2015) GLAS in numbers: 90,000 bird boxes and 1,300km of hedgerows, Agriland. www.agriland.ie/farming-news/glas-in-numbers-90000-bird-boxes-and-1300km-of-hedgerows/

¹¹ Roache, M. (2023) Hedgerows and ACRES requirements, Teagasc. www.teagasc.ie/publications/2023/hedgerows-and-acres-requirements.php

¹² Irish Statute Book (1964) S.I. No. 19/1964 - Fire Blight Disease Order, 1964.

¹³ EPPO (2024) EPPO Datasheet: Erwinia amylovora. www.gd.eppo.int (accessed 2024-02-12).

¹⁴ Teagasc (2020) Commercial Apple Production, Fact Sheet, Horticulture 03, V1.

Name	Organisation	Message
Aaron Geary	Cycle Repair Centre	No additional message.
Aaron Gray	Holistic Engineering	No additional message.
Abhil Ash Sahadevan	HSE	Stop importing trees without testing for Fireblight please.
Adam Maryniak	Concerned Individual	To protect hedgerows
Adam Nugent	Concerned Individual	We are still dealing with the terrible ramifications of Ash dieback, another disease thought to have been brought here through imported trees. We must endeavour to stop the importing of trees infected with Fireblight so that nature can have a fighting chance in Ireland.
Adam F. Smith	University of Freiburg	Invasive species and plant pests are avoidable biosecurity issues. Better joined up thinking about imports and provenance of stock is vital!
Adrian Fitzpatrick	Down Hedgelayar	Hedgerows are important biodiverse assets. They must be managed appropriately and import of plants from other nations weakens our national ecosystem. Native plants must be native to Ireland to maintain our unique plant genomes.
Adrian Gahan	Concerned Individual	Something both environmentalists and farmers can agree upon!
Adrian Kerrigan	Hedgerows Ireland	I support the prevention of Fireblight.
Adrian O Connor	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aeda Cantillon	Concerned Individual	Action is needed to prevent more damage to native trees. Heartbreaking to have another disease like the Ash dieback doing so much harm. Please support native tree nurseries.
Aidan Byrne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aidan Lawless	Irish Hedgerows	No additional message.

Aideen Mooney	Nature Corridors Glendree	The hedgerows are crucial nature corridors.
Aine Cou no	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aine Kelly	Concerned Individual	Our native trees need to be protected.
Aine O'Halloran	Concerned Individual	Please implement protective measures against the importation of diseased horticultural and agricultural species.
Aine Wynne	Concerned Individual	It is vital to protect our hedgerows.
Áine Hughes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Áine Lawless	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Áine Mac Carthy	Concerned Individual	Better to spend a little money preventing the disease entering the country than to spend a lot of money trying to eradicate it. Hedgerows are already doing the heavy lifting in Ireland when it comes to supporting biodiversity. It's critical that they are protected.
Áine McGarry	Trohanny Cottage	Please save and protect our native hedgerows
Airmid Keogh	Herbalist	No additional message.
Aisling Kiely	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is a backbone of hedgerows in Ireland; our remaining, limited channel for wildlife running throughout our agricultural landscape. We cannot afford to lose what biodiversity we have in Irish farmland.
Aisling Ryan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aisling Shanahan	Concerned Individual	We have so few native trees we need to protect them as best we can, for biodiversity and for carbon sequestration

Aislinn Mollin	Concerned Individual	Please suspend imported non-native Hawthorn species. It is causing the spread of a destructive disease called Fireblight and is a huge risk to biodiversity and native Hawthorn trees.
Alan Connon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Alan Cuddihy	Cuddihy Sawmills	There is too much importing of trees and shrubs without proper inspection.
Alan Forskitt	NIHBS	It is appalling that once again a disease is let into the country due to the lack/lowering of disease control of imports
Alan Mccabe	River Blackwater Catchment Trust	No additional message.
Alan Moore	Hedgerows Ireland	We urge the Minister to instruct DAFM to immediately address the significant threat to our native hedgerows posed by Fireblight disease along the lines recommended in the attached letter.
Alan O Donovan	Concerned Individual	The protection of natural woodlands is a must.
Alan Quigley	Concerned Individual	As a nature lover I support this campaign.
Alan Stewart	Concerned Individual	Protecting Ireland from Invasive Species should be a concern for everyone. Ireland for Native Irish plants!
Alannah Robins	Interface	The loss of our hedgerows would be the nail in the coffin for our biodiversity. Please stop importing risky goods.
Alex O'Regan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Alexander Nyirenda	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ali Crighton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Ali Robinson	Part time farmer	Please see sense and act responsible to protect our native tree species. Financial gain must never supersede moral obligation to protect and preserve Irish native species. Please see sense on this issue! Extremely concerned voter.
Ali Z	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Alice Cavanagh	Concerned Individual	Ireland's hedgerows are one of the last biodiversity strongholds in the country. Please do everything to protect them from this disease and support the Irish people who grow locally.
Alice Mc Govern	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Alison Murphy	Concerned Individual	Ireland's biodiversity is in crisis, we need to work on establishing our own native species and not take shortcuts that have further devastating effects on already struggling ecosystems.
Alison Stokes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Alistair Cowan	Concerned Individual	Time to stop the importation of plant species that are potential carriers.
Allan Hanratty	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Allicia Geraghty	Hedgerows Ireland	This is a very serious and important matter that needs to be dealt with ASAP!
Amanda Baker	Concerned Individual	Please protect our environment and natural heritage.
Amanda Ellis	Concerned Individual	Fireblight threatens the hedgerows etc which are the bones of our wildlife habitat
Amanda Hughes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Amber Coleman	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Amelia Raben	Amelia's Garden Flowers	No additional message.

Amy Barry	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Amy Brennan	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows need to be valued more as the wonderful repository of biodiversity that they are. Hawthorn in particular is a workhorse providing food and shelter for many species. Please protect our hedgerows
Amy Douglas	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Amy Lynam	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Amy O Donnell	Concerned Individual	Ireland needs to take bio security seriously in the fight against Fireblight. The damage this would cause for wildlife would be devastating. Our hedgerows are already in such poor condition in so many areas.
Ana Ospina	Green Skibbereen CLG	No additional message.
Andayi Mbirika	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Andre Baumann	Google	No additional message.
Andre Allan Busarello	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Andrea Lange	Concerned Individual	We need to do everything we can to protect native species from imported diseases and are in a great position to do this as an island.
Andrew Court	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Andrew Shinnick	IBA CLG	No additional message.
Andy O'Rourke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Andy Young	Concerned Individual	It's vital we stop importing infected trees and shrubs lest we end up with another native species virtually wiped out especially when native grown stock is readily available.

Angela Jennings	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Angela Nolan	Concerned Individual	Our native species are paramount to protect.
Anita Dunlea	Newbridge Tidy Towns	Help save our hedgerows.
Anita Fleming	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Anita Hayes	Concerned Individual	As well as all our hedgerows hold for the health of the land, birds and all, this also threatens our native orchards and wild apples, safely protected on this island for hundreds and hundreds of years.
Ann Behan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ann Browne	Concerned Individual	It would be catastrophic for our entire countryside, wildlife and culture if our hedgerows are destroyed. We cannot stand back and let disease after disease affect our native trees. Research and interventions are quickly needed. Please urgently allocate funds.
Ann Butler	Kilcock Tidy Towns	Our island cannot afford any further devastation to our hedgerows and our few remaining habits. An immediate ban on importing stock and burning of all current imported stock to mitigate the risk is required. A national program to grow from seed of Irish providence/origin to future protect our island is a necessity. Ireland requires special island protection status versus the EU.
Ann Corbett	Concerned Individual	Please prevent the spread of Fireblight in Hawthorn by not importing Hawthorn from abroad. Or we will face the same consequences as the death of the Ash tree. Be proactive and not reactive when the damage is done.
Ann Fenlon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ann Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	We must stop the spread of disease in our beautiful native Hawthorn hedgerows and prevent a repeat of the Ash dieback devastation.

Ann Hetherington	Concerned Individual	Please learn to be a lot more vigilant and careful when in charge of our native trees and hedges. After all, this is why we vote you into power.
Ann Lynch	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter to stop the importation of Hawthorn which can carry the disease known as Fireblight and promote the growing of our native Irish Hawthorn.
Ann Menton	Concerned Individual	Important for biodiversity/ecology to have disease free planting of our native hedging and trees.
Ann O'Mahony	Concerned Individual	I would like to see the end of any imports of Hawthorn and other hedgerow plants into Ireland. Our nurseries need to start propagating Irish native plants.
Anna Benn	Concerned Individual	Protect our native Hawthorn trees and ban importing trees and shrubs. The Ash blight that has ravaged Ireland's Ash population is a tragedy.
Anna Browne	Concerned Individual	Importing Hawthorn is risky! Let's not endanger our green island.
Anna Devlin	Concerned Individual	It is vital this blight is controlled at the early stages and that imports are controlled as suggested by Hedgerows Ireland to minimise imported disease risks
Anna Larkin	Concerned Individual	As we have seen from the damage to our Ash trees and now the introduction of the New Zealand flatworm, if we don't control what we bring into the country we will destroy our natural ecosystems.
Anna Macleod	Artist Leitrim Sculpture Centre	The spread of this blight has the potential to devastate our natural heritage, our ancient hedgerows that have historical, social, cultural and biodiversity significance. It is important that we take steps to protect this heritage for future generations.
Anna Mulvihill	Concerned Individual	We can't let the Hawthorn, Apple, Rose go the way of our Ash and Elm.
Anna Pringle	Concerned Individual	Please protect the iconic Hawthorn and what's left of our hedgerows.

Anna Roycroft	Bandon Environmental Action Group	Our natural native heritage needs to be protected
Anne Brennan	Concerned Individual	I fail to understand the cavalier attitude of the Department of Agriculture towards the last minute decision to allow imported plant material, especially given the current devastation being caused by Ash dieback disease.
Anne Brown	Learning in Harmony with Donkeys	It is so important to have native produce for hedging. It's a disgrace that this was not planned for in accordance with the hedge planting schemes that are currently in place.
Anne Byrne	Concerned Individual	We need to urgently stop hedgerow destruction in all forms - irresponsible imports and irresponsible cutting back. Bring in a nationwide ban on roadside hedge massacres.
Anne Coakley	Concerned Individual	To protect our native trees from the spread of disease
Anne Cowley	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is an integral part of our hedgerows and its loss will have a devastating effect on our natural and cultural heritage. There are further implications for hedgerows if our native Crab Apple and Rowan trees become infected. The grave consequences for food crops must be considered. I fully support the recommendations of Hedgerows Ireland in their letter dated 01/03/24.
Anne Guerin	Turners Cross Climate Action Group.	This issue will cost the government down the line. Prevent it before it's too late .. please!
Anne Lennon	Friends of Ardee Bog	I know the value of native hedgerows for the healthiest biodiversity. Has the government learned nothing from the importation of Ash trees causing Ash dieback and the compensation required because of this. We cannot risk our native hedgerow with importing Hawthorn carrying Fireblight. Ban the importation of non native Hawthorn.

Anne McCartney	Concerned Individual	Action is required to prevent the spread of this disease and save our hedges and trees that are at risk.
Anne McKeon	Concerned Individual	Any small step we can take to nurture the environment is important.
Anne McLean	Concerned Individual	Minister, how dare you put our wonderful Hawthorn and hedgerows at risk of Fireblight by waiving the regulation regarding the import of Hawthorn. One million imported last year for ACRES? You will go down in history as the man that destroyed this wonderful heritage.
Anne McTigue O'Connor	Concerned Individual	Stop this importation right away as it is not good for our Irish species.
Anne Morrisson	Concerned Individual	As a qualified horticulturist, I am highly aware of the oncoming devastation of our hedgerows. We already seem to be fighting a losing battle to retain sufficient flora to hold our fauna. Fireblight will decimate a fragile system.
Anne Mulvihill	Concerned Individual	Please act now before it's too late.
Anne O'Connell	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our beautiful hedgerows in Ireland.
Anne O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	I am deeply concerned for the health of what little Hedgerows we have left. I hope we can prevent the potentially disastrous outcome of introducing this disease to Ireland.
Anne Pounds	Concerned Individual	Protecting native species and preventing the spread of disease is the responsibility of the "competent" "authority" . It is imperative that the requisite controls are put in place.
Anne Riordan	Concerned Individual	So important for maintaining our island's biodiversity.
Anne Cecilia Heffernan	Concerned Individual	I want to protect our hedgerows, the few that are remaining.

Anne Marie Brady	Chapel Gate/Pine Ridge Residents Association	Importing trees also reduces Ireland's ability to safeguard the genetic diversity of native tree species. We must protect our Hedgerows.
Anne Marie Hynes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Anneke O'Connor	Feale Biodiversity	We are already losing Ash due to imported dieback disease. Please don't run the risk of losing Hawthorn, cultivated apples and native crab apples by importing trees. There is no need, with a little patience nurseries can easily stock up on Irish provenance Hawthorns
Annette Treacy	Concerned Individual	Our 'Sceach' isn't merely a Hawthorn bush, it is deeply embedded in our folklore. We must protect what is native to Ireland and safeguard it for future generations so that they will be connected to our magical and unique landscape.
Annie Eustace	Concerned Individual	Stop importing stuff that can be grown in Éire
Annie Hogg	The Wild Hedge Ink Co.	No additional message.
Annie Rowe	Ani Vintage	No additional message.
Anthea Lacchia	Concerned Individual	Please act to save our hedgerows
Anthony Clearn	Concerned Individual	Care for the environment must include protecting plant health.
Anthony Daly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Anthony Nannix	Concerned Individual	Critical to protect our Hawthorn.
Antóin McDermott	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Antoinette Breen	Concerned Individual	Stop bringing imported hedging into this country. We need more planting of healthy Irish native species to support animal and bird populations across this island. We need more education and transparency on the subject.

Anya Stafford	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoibhinn Molloy Roche	Concerned Individual	I strongly support this open letter. The importation of non native species must stop. Ash dieback, elm and not whitethorn. The lack of foresight with the ACRES Scheme is criminal.
Aoibhinn O'Donoghue	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Boyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Caffrey	The Yoga Clann	We need to protect our native species. Stop importing seeds and trees from other countries. Look at what's happened to our native Ash tree. Our ecosystem is under so much strain and comes down to capitalist greed. Hedgerows are a vital part of our biodiversity and they need to be protected.
Aoife Corry	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Finnegan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Hanley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Hickey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Kelly	Concerned Individual	I'm concerned about the world I'll be leaving to my children. We have to take care of the little things if we are to have any way of tackling bigger climate issues. If signing an open letter helps in some small way then I will gladly do it.
Aoife Lalor	CDETБ	Please use native trees, not imported ones. Our insects and birds need them.
Aoife Lowden	Concerned Individual	We need to stop importing trees and putting our native trees which are already in a dire state at risk.
Aoife Mckernan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Aoife Mollin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aoife Ní Mhaitiú	Concerned Individual	Protect our precious native trees
Aoife O'Donovan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ashraf El Sherbiny	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Assumpta Laffey	Concerned Individual	We are planting more trees which is very encouraging. What a shame if they are destroyed by Fireblight. We need to ban imports right now.
Attracta Madden	Concerned Individual	This blight is potentially an environmental disaster. Take all possible measures to block imports of non native trees. The major nurseries must be prevented from reimporting young saplings sent to Europe to germinate then re imported carrying the disease.
Audrey Walshe	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Aurora Planells Bernat	Concerned Individual	The wellbeing of our environment is very important to me and I wish for the due efforts to take place
Bairre MacDomhnaill	Concerned Individual	I believe ineptitude and incompetence by Government and Government bodies have allowed enough foreign diseases into our country.
Barbara Buckley	Retired Biologist	I believe we have a dangerously cavalier attitude to importation of plants/shrubs/trees. The planting of imported young trees/ whips/ juvenile hedge plants can only lead to further infections to an already challenged flora in Ireland. Consider the cost of Ash Die-back to the flora of Ireland. Either be stringent on entry conditions or forbid the mass importation of young trees.
Barbara Hamill	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Barbara Kerkhoff	Concerned Individual	Living through a biodiversity crisis we need to do everything that is possible to reduce specimen loss! There should be no problem to propagate Irish native Hawthorn! It just takes political will and decisions! We can do better than importing diseases!
Barbara Vasic	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Barney Austen	Concerned Individual	I support this letter for the simple reason that it seeks to protect our native hedgerow species. There is no reason to continue to facilitate imports over the use of "home grown" saplings for hedgerow creation.
Barry Bates	Concerned Individual	We're not doing enough to protect our wildlife and their habitat . It's completely unnecessary to import plants such as Hawthorn.
Barry Cunningham	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Barry Hamilton	Grow Wild Garden Design	No additional message.
Barry Larkin	Concerned Individual	I don't want to see our hedgerows destroyed, can the government department not ask for guidance from the hedgelayers associations when redefining the multi year reps schemes every few years to avoid negative consequences? We don't want to see Hawthorn going the way of Ash if it's avoidable. Ban imports.
Barry Lynch	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Barry McKenna	Arboriculture Apprenticeship	We have been here before with Ash dieback. Let's not repeat the same mistakes.
Barry McLaughlin	Inch Gun club	Protect our hedgerows
Baya Rouzoul	Concerned Individual	I urge the Irish Government to act on this with speed.
Becky Firmage	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Belinda Sullivan	Concerned Individual	Enough is enough with all this importation of non-native Hawthorn! Absolutely crazy! Give the job to the nurseries and keep our valuable hedgerows safe.
Ben Malone	Concerned Individual	The risk this emerging disease poses to our countrywide is far too great to warrant the import of stock. Should Fireblight take a substantial hold, it is frightening to think of the loss we would suffer to our natural & cultural heritage and the devastating impact it would have on biodiversity on a national scale. Please reverse this decision.
Bernadette Connolly	The Environmental Forum	Our Hedgerows are one of our most important landscape features that deliver multiple services for Biodiversity, climate, food production & people. They are already very challenged by poor maintenance & over cutting. We need to stop the risk of introducing this disease which will further destroy trees & hedgerows.
Bernadette Fennell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Bernadette Hopkins	Concerned Individual	Keep our seeds native and hardy.
Bernadette Lacey	Soul Sanctuary	Please stop importing stocks of Hawthorn which may be diseased with Fireblight, this is crucial to protect our native hedgerows Thank you. Kind Regards, Bernadette Lacey
Bernadette Mccarthy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Bernard Joyce	Concerned Individual	Already dealing with the fallout of Ash Dieback, with thousands of trees lost and no support, please minister get ahead of this one.
Bernard O'Brien	Farmers	It's important to protect our native trees
Bernardine Hanratty	Concerned Individual	Our plant heritage cannot be left undefended. Hedgerows support biodiversity. Without them we all will suffer.

Bernie Conway	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Bernie Cosgrove	Concerned Individual	Has the government learned nothing after destroying our beautiful Ash trees? Ban the import of plants that carry disease and cause irreparable damage.
Bernie Molloy	Concerned Individual	I'm shocked at the importation of yet another disease after the disaster that has befallen our beloved Ash trees. I fully support this open letter.
Bernie Monaghan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Bernie O'Connor	Agricultural Advisor	Please try to prevent Fireblight in Hawthorn becoming a similar disaster to the Ash tree demise by banning all imports of Hawthorn trees
Bill Garrett	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Billie O'Shea	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Birgit Kollmann	Concerned Individual	Please ban imports of foreign grown trees and hedging and support growers of native hedging to prevent the spread of Fireblight.
Blanca Fons	Concerned Individual	We need to take the Fireblight threat seriously and raise awareness. Our trees are vital for the survival of many species including us.
Bob Reilly	Horticulture Instructor	For any farming schemes, generally welcome, prior notice needs to be given to growers of home grown Trees. I say home grown Beech, Horse Chestnut are naturalised now and I can't imagine the Irish landscape without them. No way should we be importing whip size species that can be grown from seed on the island.
Bob Wilson	CELT (Centre for Environmental Living & Training)	Ireland is supposedly committed to UN Sustainable Development Goals. Biosecurity is essential to protect our environment. Importation of trees and shrubs is an unnecessary risk. Hedgerows are an ancient and iconic part of the Irish landscape playing a vital role for shelter and wildlife habitat and they must be protected.

Breda Reid	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are of massive importance to the small wildlife and bird population of Ireland. Every time I see a hedgerow taken out for new houses my heart cries.
Breda Reid	Ryston Sports and Social Club	Please address this problem asap. Our hedgerows are part of who we are.
Bredagh Moran	Concerned Individual	It is important that we do our best to protect our native flora and fauna.
Brenda Kenny	Concerned Individual	We do not need to import native species, we need to think ahead and support growers of native trees and plants here. And change the mindset of our local authorities and citizens generally who are planting non-natives.
Brenda McDonagh	Concerned Individual	These trees are so precious, valued and vital. Please help protect them.
Brendan Keane	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brendan Kenny	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brendan Mangan	Concerned Individual	The State needs to protect our native hedgerows from imported diseases.
Brendan McSherry	Concerned Individual	We need to establish nurseries for our native trees within Ireland. A single European or global market for trees does not work because we introduce pests along with native-type tree species, against which our native flora and fauna have no resistance. Please facilitate the formation of native-provenance, native-tree nurseries across Ireland now.
Brendan Reddin	Hedgerows Ireland	No additional message.
Brian Hughes	Headford Environment Group	No additional message.
Brian Lee	Hedgerows Ireland	Fireblight will decimate our hedgerows. It will be another Ash dieback story. We need to keep it out. The government needs to lead this.

Brian McElvaney	Concerned Individual	Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback disease, Fireblight... The main reason our (diminishing) hedgerows are so often cited as important for biodiversity is because in large parts of the country, that is all that's left for biodiversity. If the government can't take these baby steps after declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019, it's time for an uprising.
Brian McMahan	Concerned Individual	We must do everything in our power to avoid importing any further diseases into our country which could decimate our hedgerows and trees
Brian McSkane	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brian O'Looney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brian O'Toole	Wildacres	As Hedgerows are a vitally important wildlife habitat given our extremely low native deciduous woodland cover.
Brian O'Carroll	Concerned Individual	Now is the time to act. This disease could be devastating for Ireland's hedgerows.
Brian O'Neill	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is vital for the survival of winter migrants and the insects it harbours are essential for many creatures, apart from being the iconic sacred Bush of Ireland. It's criminal mismanagement on the part of the government to have permitted this to occur.
Brian O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brian Sheridan	Farmer in ACRES	Stop imports immediately have we not learned from the Ash dieback and the total inadequate policy
Brian Walsh	Douglas Allotments	I don't want anymore tree diseases imported like Ash dieback!
Brid Farrell	Concerned Individual	Please support and encourage the planting of Irish provenance hedgerows in preference to imported varieties. Thank you.
Brid Hanrahan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Bridget McGovern	Concerned Individual	Please support
Bridget Murphy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Bridget Walsh	Concerned Individual	We have a beautiful old Hawthorn tree on the boundary of our garden, over 100 years old. Please protect these iconic Irish trees.
Brigid Smith	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Brigid Walsh-Byrne	Concerned Individual	Our native species are important. The bio-integrity of our land has been damaged by policies that do not recognise the precious heritage of our healthy hedgerows. The loss of the Ash tree, woven into our cultural and sporting heritage, is already causing a dramatic change to the visible landscape. Stop the import of Hawthorn before it's too late.
Bryan Maybury	Concerned Individual	It's incredibly distressing that our beloved hedgerows are under such pressure. Some by allowing pathogens enter Ireland - now Fireblight, preceded by Ash dieback etc. Also, our wanton destruction; removing miles of hedges across rural Ireland. What's left trimmed into hedges, often within the nesting season. Possibly at home in domestic gardens. Not in rural settings
Bryan Tully	Farmer	Please put actions in place now, the costs are potentially too great not to.
Cáit Gleeson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Caitlin Browne	Concerned Individual	To help protect our hedgerows.
Caitriona Carlin	University of Galway	No additional message.
Caitriona Madden	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Caitriona Mc Carthy	Concerned Individual	Please do everything possible to prevent Fireblight from affecting our native vegetation!

Caoimhe Mulcahy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carina Bates	Concerned Individual	Please prioritise our native species. Our ecosystem has evolved this way and our native insects and animals are affected when we are planting non native species.
Carmel Burke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carmel Darcy	Concerned Individual	I would ask the Minister to be aware of this risk to our hedgerows and to act on the knowledge acquired to stop the spread.
Carmel Duffy	Caretaker of one acre of mostly wild land. Grandmother, permacultures, FoE supporter, Green Party member	Hedgerows are very ancient and provide huge habitat for multiple species, and deuces for wildlife from the ravages of modern agriculture.
Carmel Gormley	Concerned Individual	Please reconsider this insanity of importing trees to our country that carry with them the risk of disease and wiping out one of our iconic native trees. This has happened before with our Ash, why are you risking our trees and habitats ? Can the DOA be that reckless and irresponsible?
Carmel Greene	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carmel Keating	Concerned Individual	Protect our ancient hedgerows. Do what needs to be done to protect our trees from Fireblight. Our Ash trees are already doomed. Don't let this affect other tree species.
Carmel Moore	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are integral for biodiversity and must be protected
Carmel Orme	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carmel Reynolds	Concerned Individual	I fear for the health of our native Hawthorn due to allowing the import of potentially infected plants with Fireblight. I believe we should have learned the lesson seeing the damage done to the Ash trees due to importing infected plants.

Carmen Manning	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carol Bedell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carol Healy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carol Ann Rooney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Carola Blaney	Wildlife Gardener, Dublin 12.	As a passionate wildlife gardener and environmentalist, I strongly feel that Ireland needs to implement better and more effective biosecurity, keeping a much closer eye on imported plants. Our hedgerows are part of our natural heritage and need better protection right across the board. I see no reason why Irish nurseries can't propagate locally grown hedgerow plants, including Hawthorn.
Carole Douglas	Arodstown Amatsu Clinic	We simply can't afford to lose any more hedgerow in this country.... positive action please.
Caroline Bowles	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Caroline D'Arcy	Concerned Individual	It doesn't make any sense to import Hawthorn or other hedgerow plants when we can easily plant whips from our own native plants. These could be provided when hedgerows are cut back instead of reducing everything to wood chips. We have seen the destruction caused by the introduction of other imported trees & plants so surely we've learned.
Caroline Kuyper	Extinction Rebellion Inishowen	Please not another Ash dieback disaster being risked by imports! Protect our native Hawthorn.
Caroline McDonald	Bat Conservation Ireland	Please don't import Hawthorn to Ireland. Replant using native bred plants.
Caroline Stanley	Friends of Merlin woods	It is important we protect our native species. Fireblight affects much more species of trees if it takes hold. It will have an enormous negative effect on our wild habitats and help to cause an increase in wildlife loss which we can ill afford to lose.

Casper Dudarec	Concerned Individual	I have an orchard and communicate with many other fruit growers around the world, so I know how absolutely devastating Fireblight is in countries where it is present.
Cassandra Toomey	Concerned Individual	Please take action to prevent Fireblight destroying native species which are such an important part of our heritage.
Cathal Heneghan	Concerned Individual	Please stop the spread of Fireblight. And stop the import of hedgerow which will only spread the disease.
Cathal Murray	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Catherine Caulwell	An t-Ionad Glas, the Organic College	Invest in local tree propagation systems rather than importing problems. And be wary of organisation promoting GM solutions. Thank you for your consideration and fast action.
Catherine Clinton	Concerned Individual	Save the Hawthorn
Catherine Coxon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Catherine Dunne	Concerned Individual	We should do everything we can to prevent Fireblight spreading here.
Catherine Gallagher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Catherine Jordan	Concerned Individual	I support Hedgerows Ireland's campaign re Fireblight and ask the minister to introduce legislation immediately to stop rampant destruction of native Irish hedgerows.
Catherine Jung	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Catherine Murphy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Catherine O'Neill	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter because I value our hedgerows as part of our natural environment; I wish to see them protected and cared for. Our own wellbeing is intrinsically connected to that of our natural world. Please take action, thank you, Kate

Catherine Rice	Concerned Individual	Our beautiful habitats need to be protected before it's too late.
Catherine Ryan	Friends of Castle Lake and Catchment Area	I want to make sure all our native trees are protected from the terrible disease, so all our trees, plants, wildlife and insects can thrive.
Cathleen McCarter	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Cathleen O'Neill	Concerned Individual	It is so important to protect our native species. Hawthorn is easy to propagate from haws from existing trees. This is what should be encouraged instead of importing non-native plants.
Cathrine Bourne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Cathy Burke	Irish Doctors for the Environment	Irish hedgerows are a haven for wildlife and biodiversity. Keeping hedgerows disease-free is an important step in preserving small mammals, small birds and insects. We need to do everything possible to keep our already diminished animal and insect life safe. Engaging with nature has clear health benefits for Irish people.
Catriona Fallon	Green Arts Initiative in Ireland	Fireblight poses a serious threat to what remains of our native hedgerows. To lose these iconic trees as well as the Ash through Ash Dieback would seem unthinkable.
Catriona Lawlor	Concerned Individual	It makes so much sense ecologically and economically to stop Fireblight now than wait for it to take over and have to destroy hedgerows that are currently healthy
Catriona Rooney	Concerned Individual	Please stop the importation of Hawthorn plants right away & preserve our countryside.
Celine Holland	Concerned Individual	I do not think Hawthorn should be imported bringing the possibility of blight with it.
Charles Henderson	Kinsale Tidy Towns	Stop the import of these trees immediately

Charlie Hill	Concerned Individual	In my lifetime in the UK and Ireland we have destroyed over 500,000 kilometres of Hedgerows. Hawthorn is a significant proportion of our Native Hedgerows. We can't afford to lose anymore, please do the right thing and act now.
Chiara lane	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Chloe Maybury	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Chloe Quinn	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Chris Barron	Concerned Individual	Because at this time of our biodiversity crisis it is so important to be doing all that we can to look after the native species that we do have which so many other species depend on. It's so important to plant local provenance trees and shrubs.
Chris Betts	Tramore Eco Group	This is the first we have heard of this disease, but will definitely raise awareness among our members and neighbours.
Chris Bowring	Concerned Individual	This importation is foolish in the extreme. Time for some responsible governance. No need to import trees. In fact detrimental to local diversity. Such trees as used in schemes need to be sourced locally and at very least within each county. Think on
Chris McCarney	Sliabh Beagh Trust	Minister McConalogue, I have been involved 20 years ago in a small community native tree nursery. We have ideal land for a nursery. We just need some level of support and forward planning from our government agencies. The development of local native tree nurseries has potential for environmentally friendly land use and to create jobs in rural areas.
Christian Higgins	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Christine Gleeson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Christine Kiefer	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Christine Mackey	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are the lungs of the land providing safe shelters and corridors for animals and plants. They must be maintained and cared for. Stop the import of material into Ireland that carries Fireblight.
Christine Y	Concerned Individual	This disease could devastate our hedgerows which will further impact biodiversity. Hawthorn especially has such an important role in supporting biodiversity as well as having a strong cultural significance.
Christopher Carolan	Concerned Individual	Please stop the import of Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>). The loss of such an important plant to our indigenous, spiritual and national wisdom and use would be a knife in the heart of our culture.
Christopher Fox	Concerned Individual	Please address this issue as soon as possible. We have Rowan, Cotoneaster, pear and apple trees in our estate and we would hate to have to remove them.
Christopher Martín	Private Environmental Consultant	As an island, we have an opportunity to have good biosecurity, like New Zealand. We need to be less lax about importing plants and animals. This is another example of what can go wrong, don't let the Hawthorn become the next Elm.
Christopher Williams	Liverpool John Moores University	No additional message.
Cian Dowd	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Cian Flaherty	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Cian Moynan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciara Brady	Concerned Individual	Please help protect our native habitats! We are in the middle of a climate crisis, reaching tipping points so please take action on this issue to protect our beautiful hedgerow.

Ciara Gallagher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciara Hinksman	Forest School Ireland	No additional message.
Ciara Jameson	Concerned Individual	To save and preserve our Hawthorns and Hedgerows
Ciara McGarrigle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciara Murphy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciara O'Connor	Farmer	No additional message.
Ciara O'Flynn	Gortnacrusha Biodiversity Farm	As stated in the letter, the prospect of losing large surcharges of our hedgerows which are already under threat from overzealous pruning by flail mowers, would result in an approaching catastrophic loss of habitat which are in many instances the last element of habitat on modern farms.
Ciara Sherlock	Concerned Individual	We need to take Ash dieback and other pathogens seriously! For all ecology.
Ciaran Brennan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciaran Clissmann	Concerned Individual	Please help to protect the unique biodiversity and pure joy of native hedgerows.
Ciaran G	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciaran Tyrrell	Concerned Individual	These trees are so important for so many reasons. Environmentally, culturally, spiritually. Please protect our trees.
Ciarán Brady	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciarán Fahy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ciarán O'Carroll	Atlantic Sea Kayaking	No additional message.

Cillian Boyd	Independent	I'm very disappointed with the government . In 2023 there were 1,006,150 whitethorn trees imported, disaster waiting to happen. We should be planting only Irish grown trees and supporting Irish growers (even better get people to propagate whitehorn from seeds). Unfortunately the government is willing to risk our biodiversity, as they have done with invasive species through the nursery trade.
Cintia Kennedy	Living in Countryside	Please stop importing Hawthorn hedging. The government was advised that importing this will endanger our native hedging. The government did not listen and now our hedgerow is in danger. Wake up and take the correct action and take responsibility
Claire Blennerhassett	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Claire Callanan	Concerned Individual	We cannot risk losing our Hawthorn hedges- we must do everything we can to protect them from this disease.
Claire Chambers	Chambers Toxicological Consulting	For an island nation, biosecurity is of paramount importance. We tend to think of macro invasive species but invasive species may also be micro such as bacteria and viruses. These are far more difficult to discern and often only found too late - when impossible to control. Plant passports are not the complete answer.
Claire Davidson	Concerned Individual	Please don't make the same mistakes of the past. Hedgerows are the forests of Ireland. Do not allow the importation of hedging.
Claire McCluskey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Claire Mulcahy	Concerned Individual	Because our countryside is slowly being hacked down by the councils, dead Ash trees everywhere in the midlands... and now this. Yet we continue to build our 5 bed mansions in every field. We are leaving a horrible legacy for our children.

Claire Mulligan	Concerned Individual	Can we please learn from the mistakes made with Ash dieback? It's beyond belief that we're repeating the errors of the past only this time with Fireblight and Hawthorn.
Claire Redmond	Attinkee Farm	This is not a risk we should be taking. Fully support reinstating Irish provenance and suspending imports. It's not all about the money, minister.
Claire Rooney	Concerned Individual	Save our Hawthorns!
Clare Hamilton	Woodstown Village Wildlife	Please do all you can to support Irish nurseries and prevent importation of trees - and the myriad of pathogens and pests they carry that our native trees have no defense for. It defeats the purpose of afforestation if we risk losing precise species through cutting corners.
Clare McCahill	Concerned Individual	I will be planting Hawthorn this year because it is native and beneficial to my immediate environment. I don't know much about Fireblight, however, I do know that new plantings will struggle to establish without the added threat of a disease that could be controlled. Healthy hedgerows and their ecosystem must be protected.
Clare Nee	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Claudette Hales	Concerned Individual	To think we might lose that wonderful early Summer experience of dewy cow parsley rising to meet the glorious blossoms of our May bush. What a loss that would be. Yet another blow to our balance of nature.
Clive Lyttle	Hedgerows Ireland and Welig Heritage Crafts	I make a substantial part of my living from Hedgerow management and would like to please continue doing so. Not to mention all the wildlife that rely on our Irish Hedgerows for their very existence.
Clive Richards	Concerned Individual	It's important to try our best to conserve what we have & not do anything to make things worse.
Cllr Noel Cribbin	Offaly County Council	Save our beautiful hedgerows.

Clodagh McGreal	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
clyde doyle	Concerned Individual	The government needs to do, and invest, more to protect our natural heritage.
Colette Gemmell	Friends of Castle Lake and Catchment	The threat that this Fireblight has for our hedgerows is a real worry, if our hedgerows get affected and have to be destroyed imagine the effect that will have on our nesting birds and wildlife in general. Our organisation is all about preserving wildlife and the improvement of water quality.
Colette Hickey	South Kildare Beekeepers	We need to protect our Native Black Bees
Colette Murray	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Colette Rooney	Concerned Individual	May in Ireland without the Hawthorn - unimaginable.
Colin Reilly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Colm Byrne	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows need our protection. We are ecologically devastated as a nation and they represent a final refuge of wildlife in most of our countryside.
Colm Garvey	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing trees which risk the spread of Fireblight. Thanks
Colm Hackett	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Colm Kenny	Ceadogan Rugmakers	No additional message.
Colm Moloney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Colm Scully	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Colma Nic Niallais	Concerned Individual	I feel that we should be doing all we can to protect our native flora and fauna species.

Conan Dynes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Connie Drost	Concerned Individual	Fireblight will have a devastating effect on Irish hedgerows as well as commercial and private fruit orchards.
Connie Purcell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Connor Heyward	Concerned Individual	We need to act now to avoid a repeat Ash dieback.
Conor Brennan	Concerned Individual	It's incredibly disappointing that such an ambitious attempt to improve the landscape of Ireland is completely voided by the U-turn to import non-Irish stock while the entire country is watching one of the most dominant tree species, Ash, disappear in just a few years. Take your time and do it right. Give jobs to Irish nurseries.
Conor Greenan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Conor Larkin	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is one of the most iconic and important hedgerow plants in this country. It must be protected and the first and easiest way to do this is to prevent easy transfer of the infection into the country by cheap imports. It is not a difficult decision. Just the correct one.
Conor Mc Donald	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are already under enough pressure and threat without Fireblight. Time to protect the remaining hedgerows and recognise them as part of our heritage
Conor McNally	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Conor O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	Because this can be controlled and needs to start at the top
Conor O'Dea	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Conor Ryan	Concerned Individual	The appearance of Fireblight is very concerning coming as it does in the wake of Ash dieback. Government would undoubtedly be very quick to act to prevent the spread of animal disease. There shouldn't be any difference when it comes to plant disease. Halt all imports now before it's too late.
Cormac Noonan	Concerned Individual	To protect the Hawthorn tree which is an important and sacred tree in our Irish culture.
Cormac O' Connell	Concerned Individual	Concern about Fireblight.
Daire McKiernan	Concerned Individual	I want to support this open letter to alert the Minister to the potential catastrophic impact of the importation of Hawthorn from non-Irish sources.
Daire Tennyson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Daithi Floinn	Concerned Individual	Important to protect our native plants and trees.
Dallan Kearney	Mounnugent Gun Club	Long term it will affect our native nesting birds and our natural cover for game.
Damian Barker	NARGC	Hedgerows are a vital part of our ecosystem as corridors, nesting areas and food source for most of our bird and mammal species it must be protected
Damian Christie	Concerned Individual	A countryside without Hawthorns is unimaginable
Damian Howard	Myshall Nature	Let's not go the way of the Ash. A proactive approach is what's needed to protect our native species.
Damien McGovern	Concerned Individual	Are bare root trees imported carriers and can you check for the disease in such plants? How do we know which nurseries are NOT importing but growing native instead.
Dan Aherne	Killorglin Tidy Towns Group	Good evening Minister, We need to protect our native species of trees e.g. Hawthorn and other plants. There are more than enough invasive species and other threats to biodiversity about! Urgent remedial action is required.

Dan Nickström	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Dana Tagar	Concerned Individual	As a natural lover, I see high importance to invest in and strengthen native nature.
Daniel Byrne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Danny Kilcullen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Daphne Roycroft	Concerned Individual	The loss of our native thorny trees would be absolutely devastating for Ireland's biodiversity.
Dara O'Boyle	Concerned Individual	I love Rowan trees, have one out my back garden, and I'm a fan of biodiversity in general. This sounds like it could be a big issue.
Darina Allen	Ballymaloe Cookery School	Hedgerows are a vital part of our ecosystem and so enhance the beauty of our countryside and birdlife... last year's whitethorn blossoms and crop of haws was the best and most beautiful I ever remember... Plus this tree is deeply connected to our Irish folklore.. let's do what we can to save them.
Darragh Wynne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Darren McDonald	Hedgerows Ireland	Please god they won't import Hawthorn, or did they not learn their lesson from the Ash....
Daryl Noonan	BEO	I have a deep love and connection with our native species. I see first hand the healing and connection to land and self that these trees and plants can bring to the Irish people. For that reason I will do anything in my power to help with this problem
David Barry	Concerned Individual	Import of diseases & pests is having a detrimental effect on our hedges and trees. It is foolish to carry on doing it without proper consideration of the effect. We need to use our commonsense in dealing with it going forward. The decision cannot be driven by financial thinking, profit/cheaper now will be disastrous for the future. Thanks,

		David B
David Brennan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
David Cotter	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
David Couper	Concerned Individual	With Ash dieback and now Fireblight in Hawthorn, we must act to ensure diversity of habitats.
David Currie	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is also a very important source of food for honey bees, indeed all bees.
David Foley	Hedgerows Ireland	Due to inadequate, short rotation policies and a lack of care in effective governance, our already heavily damaged habitats are being put at needless risk from disease. I believe we have a duty to protect our environment, and that underlies everything else. I do not want to see our country's ecological wealth further harmed. Thank you for the work you do.
David Little	Concerned Individual	Action must be taken to protect our trees and hedgerows. Now.
David NASH	Concerned Individual	Yet another example of the State 'speaking' with a forked tongue. On one hand there is endless rhetoric associated with forums, biodiversity and protection of the environment yet there is absence of control to prevent the importation of infected organisms e.g. infected Ash, Zebra Mussel and more recently tree bark without being sterilised. Conclusion is that politicians and "enforcers" are duplicitous/incompetent
David Rice	Concerned Individual	I fully support this letter. Our native hedgerows need to be protected.
David Russell	Woodhouse Dairy Farms Ltd	We need to protect our native Hawthorn which is a vital part of most of our hedgerows. We cannot let this disease be imported into the country like Ash dieback has been. It will destroy our hedgerows and have a profoundly negative impact on our biodiversity.
David Wylie	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Dearbhla Ní Laghin	Concerned Individual	I love Hawthorn trees and think Hawthorn trees in full bloom is one of the most beautiful features of the Irish rural landscape and a stunning signal of summer. So many customs are linked to Hawthorn. Please do everything possible to protect them.
Debbie O'Neill	Two Mile House Biodiversity and Heritage Group	No additional message.
Debbie Scanlan	Concerned Individual	I believe our environment needs to be protected. This is essential for our survival.
Deborah Arthur	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Deborah Mansfield	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are so important I, environmentally, culturally, and agriculturally
Declan Doherty	Concerned Individual	We can see what imported disease is doing to the chestnut and Ash tree populations. Please act now to ensure this disease is controlled before it is too late.
Declan Kidd	Concerned Individual	To Save the hedgerow
Declan Magee	Concerned Individual	Why so slow in defending our heritage. My grandchildren need action now
Declan McKenna	Concerned Individual	I have plenty of Hawthorn planted on my land and don't want to see it die as it is integral to my hedges that house many creatures.
Declan McPhillips	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter because we should be able to grow our own.
Declan Murphy	An Taisce	By allowing the importing of foreign Hawthorn bare root saplings we risk the spread of Fireblight destroying our native Hawthorn hedgerows, and it spreading to apple and Rowan trees. Stop importing saplings now before we have another Ash dieback type of disaster.

Declan O'Mahony	Artist and SOURCE TO SEA campaigner.	The thought of endangering our ancient native Hawthorn is incomprehensible given the biodiversity crises we are experiencing. Importing trees reduces Ireland's ability to safeguard the genetic diversity of native tree species, which it committed to under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Plant native genetically sound trees please and NO to this! Sincerely Declan O'Mahony.
Dee Sewell	Greenside Up	Pests and diseases don't understand boundaries but as an island, we should have some protection. Please increase import protections and checks, and support local plant growers, and help to raise awareness of yet another devastating disease.
Dee Shepherd	Concerned Individual	Why are we destroying even more hedgerows and the life that is sustained within them?
Deirdre Cunningham	Concerned Individual	We cannot be passive about preserving our native species. Assertive action from the government is necessary.
Deirdre Davis	Dunboyne Biodiversity and Tidy Towns Group.	Please take any action necessary to fight against Fireblight. Please do not import plants from affected areas.
Deirdre Doyle	Permaculture Ireland	No more tree deaths through imported diseases!!
Deirdre Fitzsimons	Concerned Individual	This is so critically important, in a biodiversity crisis, to protect our native trees from imported disease
Deirdre Lane	Shamrock Spring	We have a delicate young eco system and need to protect the limited species we have as an island. Please let's take due care of our existing Hedgerows and examine the importation of new potentially harmful pathogens.
Deirdre Murray	Clonmel Tidy Towns	Much of our work as a Tidy towns group involves food security. Community orchards are a way to do this. This disease threatens not only our work and that of all Tidy Towns groups, but also one of the biggest industries in Clonmel, Bulmers. We request that the Minister read the letter and reinstate Irish provenance to the ACRES scheme.

Deirdre Nolan	Concerned Individual	I would not like to see the fate of Hawthorn follow that of the Ash trees.
Deirdre O Brien	Concerned Individual	I support this letter as the government needs to stop The import of all foreign trees & hedging in order to protect our native plants thus protecting birds, bees and wildlife.
Deirdre O'Carroll	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter because the native trees that are affected by Fireblight are crucial to Ireland's natural and cultural heritage.
Deirdre Prince	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Deirdre Roles	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native habitat before it's too late!!
Denis Deasy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Denis Kennedy	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing Hawthorn saplings with the attendant risk of Fireblight.
Denis McCarthy	Concerned Individual	For years we are destroying the natural habitat with machines and now we're destroying it with disease
Denise Boothman	Concerned Individual	Sir, please organise all agri-environmental schemes in close communication with the Irish nurseries, so they have a chance to grow enough to meet the needs of the scheme applicants. Please stop importing plants (animals and insects e.g. bees) from other countries.
Denise Murtagh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Denise Ní Fhiaich	Concerned Individual	A Aire The devastation caused by Ash dieback disease surely must alert your department to the danger of further plant disease importation. Please take urgent action. Is mise le meas Denise
Denise Richards	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Derek Lowry	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our native species.
Dermot Doran	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Dermot O'Toole	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Dermot Rowan	A member of the IFA, ASA. GRAIN GROWERS ASSOC	The Minister of Agr still has the opportunity to adopt comprehensive control measures to prevent the spread of this devastating disease. In the case of Ash Dieback, the Dept's painfully slow reaction has already cost landowners and taxpayers millions of euros. Please let's not have a repeat of this disaster.
Derrick Hale	Concerned Individual	My interest is in protecting and preserving hedgerows. I support Hedgerows Ireland's Fireblight campaign.
Derry O'Donnell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Dervilla Keegan	The Organic Centre	The Organic Centre supports taking the immediate actions listed to ensure the protection of our Hawthorn hedgerows and biodiversity.
Dervla Murphy	Native Woodland Trust and Hedgerows Ireland	Best practice is for landowners, businesses and councils to wait till we have enough native stock germinated and reared over the next 5 to 10 years, before we go promoting woodland/ hedgerow schemes. Best things are worth waiting for.
Diana Keane	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Diana Rogerson	Trellick community garden	Please protect Ireland's hedges and trees for reasons above
Diane Foord	Concerned Individual	Do not import trees. Hawthorn readily grows from seeds in Ireland.
Diarmaid Kennedy	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is destroying our hedgerows and this in turn will destroy our wildlife.

Diarmaid O Doherty	Concerned Individual	Fireblight poses an immediate and serious threat to our native hedgerows. Our hedgerows provide vital habitats and indeed are often the only refuge our wildlife have in modern Ireland. This danger must be taken seriously before it becomes unmanageable.
Diarmuid O'Crowley	Concerned Individual	Please don't destroy our countryside any more have we not learned from Ash dieback
Diarmuid Ryan	Concerned Individual	Protect our hedgerows and orchards. Hedgerows are our primary source of biodiversity
Dominic Dolan	Concerned Individual	There are plenty of native whitethorn (sceach) available..
Don O'Herlihy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Donal Chambers	Kinsale Campus	Make all necessary efforts to stop Fireblight
Donal O'Leary	Macroom District Environmental Group	It is much more sustainable to propagate Hawthorn from seeds of local provenance, both economically and environmentally.
Donna McLaughlin	Concerned Individual	I am concerned about our native hedgerows and would like to become more aware of how yo help
Donna Rainey	Concerned Individual	Please protect our existing hedgerows & Hawthorns,by preventing further imports of Hawthorn which risk spreading Fireblight,which will destroy our vital hedges.
Dora Maybury	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Dora Sneddon	Concerned Individual	Ireland has already learned a harsh lesson from imported Ash which introduced die back and has decimated native Ash throughout the country. This alone should have informed an extremely cautious approach to importing any plants which might potentially bring in other devastating diseases. Stop importation of Hawthorn, with the high risk of introducing Fireblight and devastating indigenous plants.
Doreen Phillips Atkinson	Concerned Individual	Preserving trees growing them and protecting them is vital

Dr D Moran	Bowline Risk Management	Please restrict these imports. Please educate your officials and take better action to control schemes and prevent importation of infected organisms. While greedy middle operators enable this wiser leadership is required. Australia takes this more seriously and we used to have good controls. Time to act and sort out.
Dr Patricia Burke	Concerned Individual	It is imperative to take urgent action to protect Hawthorn a vital part of our landscape , ecosystem and cultural heritage
Dr. Allan Mee	Concerned Individual	Stop the importation of Hawthorn and other trees and their use in ACRES, an environmental programme that may inadvertently assist the spread of Fireblight by using imported stock. Mandate the use of native and locally sourced trees to prevent the decimation of our native hedgerows
Dymp a Clancy	Member of Three Counties Beekeepers, Limerick	I support this open letter because we must not lose our native Irish trees to this foreign disease. The native Irish honey bee - black bee - has long foraged on the trees that will be affected. Please do what is required to prevent this disease coming into Ireland.
Dymphna Cullen	Concerned Individual	We have experience of the damage that invasive flora and fauna can do. Please do not let our unpatriotic farmers score such an own goal.
E Moore	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eamon Geoghegan	Concerned Individual	Hawthorns are vital to support what little biodiversity we have left in this country
Eamon Lenihan	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our native trees and hedgerows.
Eamonn Dillon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eamonn Howe	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eamonn McGinley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Eamonn McLoughlin	Hedgerows Ireland	No additional message.
Eamonn Merriman	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are so important for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and as landscape features beloved by many. They need to be protected.
Éanna Gallagher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Éanna Hyland	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eavan Kinch	Concerned Individual	It's important to look after all our trees and hedges and make sure to keep them healthy.
Eddie Mitchell	Love Leitrim	The last thing we need now is disease in our Hawthorn trees.
Eddie Roche	Concerned Individual	Stop importing diseased trees before it's too late. Look at Ash dieback!
Edel Barry	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is one of the most important shrubs in Ireland and it will be an ecological disaster if this spreads. Please learn. From Elm and Ash and take action immediately
Edel McCoy	Concerned Individual	Please save our trees
Edmund Doherty	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Edwin Kelly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Éidín Griffin	Concerned Individual	I am incredibly concerned about this ecological disaster. Our hedgerows already suffer from flail mowing and poor management. This could kill them off completely and is devastating for our fragile and beleaguered ecological systems.
Eileen Deely	Farmer	Our farm is full of wild hedgerow growth. We already see the Ash being hit so severely and of course we should not be introducing more risk to devastating existing plants when planting more. It's just nonsense.

Eileen Shanahan	The Working Horse on the Farm Society	Destruction of hedgerows leads to a decline and death of wildlife. Hedge cutting equipment needs to be regulated ie the appropriate equipment and training certificates should be mandatory for all contractors and farmers.
Eileen Thomas	Concerned Individual	Importing native Irish trees is wrong for the health of our hedgerows and ban it now before it's too late.
Éilís Murphy	Concerned Individual	The Dept of Agriculture is being incredibly reckless importing Hawthorn with the risk of disease. It might make a great sound bite to say that ACRES has planted XXXX kilometres of hedgerows but what's the point if it has to be destroyed in a decade's time, taking with it more mature hedgerows.
Eilish Cramer	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are a unique part of our heritage.they are vital for our wildlife and biodiversity.we must protect them
Eilish Ryan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eithne Gallagher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eithne Gallagher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eithne MacMahon	Concerned Individual	Urgent action is needed Now!
Elaine Byrne	Concerned Individual	Please stop the importation of trees into Ireland that pit our own native species at risk.
Elaine Doyle	Woodland League	No additional message.
Elaine Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	Continuous destruction and imported diseases have brought our hedgerows to the brink of ecological collapse. We know what, how, and who are responsible. Action needs to be taken urgently to stop this emerging threat.
Elaine Haskins	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Elaine Urquhart	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Eleanor Clancy	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are essential for the environment and support the survival of many native species .
Eleanor Wauchob	Concerned Individual	The importance of hedgerows for biodiversity means we must do everything possible to avoid the risk of introducing diseases such as Fireblight.
Elida Maiques	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn can be grown from cuttings, many community gardens do it. Support local tree nurseries and have a strong biosecurity system.
Elisabeth Haughton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Elizabeth Bluett	Concerned Individual	We haven't acted or acted too slowly in the past to stop plant diseases entering Ireland, learn from those mistakes and act now.
Elizabeth Byrnes	Concerned Individual	I have witnessed the damage caused to our lovely Ash trees due to so-called 'Ash die back' and Hedgerows are so important for biodiversity so this latest disease is just another example of what seems to be happening to nature all over the world. We need to take whatever action is needed to fight it.
Elizabeth Cullen	Feasta	Our biodiversity is our life-support system. We do not fully understand the interactions between all the constituents of our ecosystems
Elizabeth Gageby Bell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Elizabeth Riley	Concerned Individual	Protecting wildlife is incredibly important to our eco-sustainability.
Elizabeth Walsh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Elizabeth Margaret Stewart	Msc Student in UCD	No additional message.
Ellen Murphy	Grenagh Tidy Towns	Hawthorn is the fairy tree, a special species in rural Ireland
Ellen O'Carroll	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Elsmer Dinsmore	Wild Flora and Fauna of Ireland	Instead of importing trees the Dept of Agriculture should be funding the growing of native stock. And they should have ensured an adequate native grown supply before implementing the new scheme
Emer McKenna	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our native hedgerows
Emer Savage	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Emer Walsh	Concerned Individual	I'd like to see our native hedgerows maintained, potentially bringing in this disease puts them at risk.
Emily Clarke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Emily Grossi	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Emma Dowling	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Emma Finn	NIHBS	Please protect our biodiversity and ban these imports. Stop supporting initiatives bad for our environment.
Emma Hogan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Enagh Farrell	Enagh Farrell	No additional message.
Enda Dineen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Enric Muniente	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Enya Burke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eoghan Dunne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eoin Butler	Oranmore Biodiversity Group	No additional message.
Eoin Cripps	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Eoin Donnelly	Hedgerows Ireland	No additional message.
Eoin Gill	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are vital for Ireland's country wildlife and pathogens such as Fireblight must be controlled to mitigate the damage from this and similar threats.
Eoin Mac Lochlainn	Hx Grow	No additional message.
Eoin McNamee	Concerned Individual	I support a ban on imported stocks which might cause harm to our native species
Eoin Wynne	Concerned Individual	Too many of our native trees are under threat from imported diseases and pests.
Eric Conroy	An Taisce	We need to protect our hedgerows given we have so few trees (especially native) in Ireland.
Eric Plummer	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Erica Rate	Vegetable Grower	No additional message.
Erika Marks	Concerned Individual	Reinstating the labelling requirement should happen immediately, it's beyond belief that such a simple act has not already happened.
Erin Mc Crudden	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultancy	No additional message.
Esther Esther Rodriguez	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Etaoin Holahan	Fennelly's of Callan	We don't want the Hawthorn to go the way of the Ash
Ethel Power	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Eva Bartelink	Farmer	We have had enough deprivation from Ash dieback. Please don't make us go through another major biodiversity failure again.

Eva Staiger	Concerned Individual	As private landowners who try to provide more native trees and shrubs, sourced from a small local nursery, it saddens me that lessons from previous plant imports, such as the Ash, haven't been learned. Please stop importing problems!
Eve Hickey	Concerned Individual	The effects of Fireblight can be devastating. We have an EU responsibility to act. Already losing more than 70 city trees in Dublin 7 to this bacteria we need more education across all sectors and we need to take preventative measures. Would hate to lose all the rose and Hawthorn the way we are losing all the Ash.
Evelyn Allen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Evelyn Cremin	Concerned Individual	To stop the madness of destroying our hedgerows by the shocking wounds caused by the huge blades of cutting machines. It is an insane practice to subject trees to and is a blatant cause for spreading disease on torn wounds. The effect on birds and other species is detrimental. Who makes these appalling decisions?
Evelyn Stevens	Concerned Individual	Please ban the importation of Hawthorn plants to prevent Fireblight from coming in to the country
Fania Ellison	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Federica Bartolomeo	Concerned Individual	I care about the environment and I would love to support initiatives aimed at protecting native species.
Féidhlim Harty	FH Wetland Systems Ltd	There is no justifiable reason to import Hawthorn, when we can simply take a little longer to establish sufficient supply here to meet Irish demand!!
FERGAL CUNNINGHAM	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fergal Hassett	Hedgerows Ireland	I support this open letter because as a degree qualified Microbiologist I know that strict quarantine is needed to exclude imported diseases such as this, so robust phytosanitary regulation with the suspension of importation of Hawthorn especially from high risk countries is needed.

Fergus Cassidy	Concerned Individual	Our native hedgerows need to be preserved. Growing up on an Irish farm, we always maintained the hedges, otherwise, it'll be wire fencing and no natural shelter for the animals or crops.
Fiach Walker	Concerned Individual	This would be absolutely devastating for the whole of Ireland. Hawthorns are in every hedgerow on every road in Ireland. We need to ensure they are protected. We need to stop importing this to minimise the risk. And we could start our own native stock nursery to deal with the need instead of importing and putting our ecosystem at risk.
Fiachra Colgan	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our native Hedgerows.
Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Finn O Carroll	Concerned Individual	Please take some action on Fireblight
Finnán McAllen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Finnbar Howell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fintan Keogh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fiona Angel	Horticulture	No additional message.
Fiona Bradwell	Concerned Individual	We must end all imports of Hawthorn and other species. Everything should be grown here from native plants. It's the only way.
Fiona Breslin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fiona Dack	Concerned Individual	Let's stop this now and not follow the same mistakes we made with the elm disease and Ash dieback.
Fiona Leckey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Fiona McDevitt	FMcD Physiotherapy Ltd	Please act to preserve as much as possible of our hedgerows as they are so important for all life including ours. Thank you.
Fiona Ní Bhriain	Concerned Individual	I support protecting Ireland's biodiversity and our natural hedgerow
Fiona Nulty	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fiona O Reilly	Concerned Individual	Stop importing Hawthorn as a quick fix. Instead focus on encouraging the development of tree nurseries in Ireland to supply the considerable demand for native trees of all sorts - Rowan, hazel, birch, guelder rose, spindle, blackthorn etc. Also stop the current practice of sending Irish germinated seedlings to the continent to grow on for a season.
Fiona Prendeville	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fiona Sheahan	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are already facing destruction and now Fireblight from the needless and thoughtless importation of trees. Does this Government and country learn nothing from Ash dieback , or care enough to have prevented this from now occurring ? Hedgerows must be protected
Fiona Walsh	Concerned Individual	I love our native hedgerows
Fiona White	Concerned Individual	Save our hedgerows and native trees and plant life.
Fiona Woods	Concerned Individual	It is beyond vital that resources are out into this fight to save our hedgerows and trees. The consequences for wildlife are potentially devastating. Please act.
Fionnuala Barrett	Kingfisher project	Please stop all imports of Hawthorn

Fionnuala Corcoran	Kilcock Tidy Towns	We've already destroyed our hedgerows with importation of diseased trees causing Ash dieback. We need to stop importation of all matter likely to bring in invasive pests and disease. As an island we need to implement special and different restrictions and controls from the rest of Europe in order to preserve our hedgerows, one of our last few remaining habitats.
Fionnuala Fallon	Concerned Individual	Given the ongoing devastation of our native Ash tree population and what its loss represents in terms of biodiversity and the Irish landscape, I think everything should be done to protect the country's populations of native Hawthorn and rowan as well as other threatened species.
Fionnuala O'Neill	Ecologist	No additional message.
Fran O'Donovan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Fran Power	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is easy to grow in Ireland- so why import it given the risk of infection with Fireblight
Frances Giaquinto	Ecological Research and Practice	No additional message.
Frank Gleeson	Concerned Individual	For the love of god will ye cop on?
Frank Guy	Concerned Individual	Stop the import of all plants Enforce biodiversity security at our borders Legislate for the continuing destruction of our hedgerows by farmers, dairy especially
Frank Keoghan	Concerned Individual	Use only Irish Provenance/Irish Origin trees, shrubs and bushes.
Frank Rooney	Concerned Individual	We should be learning from the mistakes of the past, e.g. what happened with imported Ash trees and the diseases that were allowed to spread and have killed so many of our Ash trees. We can't let the same happen to Hawthorn.
Freda Hanley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Friederike Burmester	Concerned Individual	Please save our native Hawthorn trees and stop the import of possible infected trees
Fuchsia MacAree	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
G M	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gabrielle Machnik-Kekesi	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gabrielle McGarvey	Baltimore Biodiversity Group	No additional message.
Garrett Murphy	GRETB National Apprenticeship in Arboriculture	Hawthorn is grown in abundance in this country. With proper planning, there is no need to risk our native hedgerows by importing plants.
Gary Brady	Concerned Individual	The destruction of our hedgerows is a very serious issue and following on from the Ash die back issue i believe it is imperative that we all take action now
Gary Stack	Concerned Individual	Please stop.
Gavin Ryan	Concerned Individual	We must learn from the lessons learnt from Ash Dieback. Please act now
Gay Brabazon	VOICE (Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment) Founder member	Please Minister McConalogue, do not let the country down on this urgent task. We are relying on you.
Gearoid O'Connor	IFA	To create awareness of the danger of importing disease into the countryside, like the Ash dieback.
Gearóid Mc Evoy	Reforest Nation Ltd	We at Reforest Nation, support this open letter and believe the government hasn't gone far enough to protect our native flora from diseases like Fireblight and Ash dieback. Losing our native trees and hedgerows will result in a loss of Ireland's essence and natural heritage.
Gemma Best	Concerned Individual	It is so important to have hedgerows back in our fields, not only to give cattle the shelter they need but to give homes and food back to the wildlife.

Gemma Daly	Concerned Individual	Please listen to the scientific evidence and help Hedgerow Ireland to combat Fireblight. As a citizen of Ireland who volunteers to protect our native wildlife and their habitats I am dismayed to learn about this latest threat. We must all work together to save our trees and hedgerows.
George Leech	Concerned Individual	We cannot let this become the next Ash dieback. We must learn from past mistakes, and make sensible decisions to protect native species into the future
George Lett	Concerned Individual	Ditches and hedgerows are disappearing daily with irreversible damage being done to wildlife, these are also important for insect life to feed young birds.
Ger O'Halloran	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are absolute vital havens of biodiversity that need to be protected.
Ger Walsh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gerald Furnell	Concerned Individual	Have we learnt nothing from the Ash dieback fiasco? Stop importing diseases.
Gerald Larkin	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing Hawthorn so not to risk our own hedgerows and orchards
Geraldine Cussen	Concerned Individual	Your legislation needs rethinking doesn't it
Geraldine Gahan	Concerned Individual	Please act quickly to try and contain this serious threat to our hedgerows, trees and the wildlife which depends on them.
Geraldine Morrow	Concerned Individual	Please act now to protect our Hawthorn hedges
Geraldine Sadler	Concerned Individual	Protect our native Irish hedgerows
Geraldine Thornton	Concerned Individual	Because Hawthorn is so important in our native hedgerows. It would damage biodiversity if Fireblight was allowed to spread unchecked throughout the countryside.

Gerard Kiernan	Concerned Individual	We're in a situation where we're likely going to lose 95% of our native Ash trees from a fungal disease imported on trees. Have we learnt nothing? This must be tackled before we have yet another situation that will change the Irish landscape forever.
Gerard Litster	Concerned Individual	Please stop the import of non native plants which spread non native disease in our country and the mechanical flailing of trees which help spread disease.
Gerard Loftus	Rural Ireland Organisation	We imported Ash dieback and now we are importing more diseases because we haven't nurseries set up for farmers.
Gerard Quinn	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gerard Sharma	Newcastle biodiversity group co wicklow	This is a major issue for the country's environment and it should be banned imports of Hawthorn . Free Trade agreements must be reviewed in situations like this .
Gerry Bohan	Leitrim Hawthorn Project	We would like this serious issue looked into and the necessary actions carried out to minimize the effects of this blight. Thank you.
Gerry Browne	Hedgerows Ireland	There should be a ban on importation of whitethorn plants due to the risk of importing disease. Our Ash trees are all dying due to the importation of infected Ash plants some years ago. The DAFM should pay more attention to biosecurity on our island.
Gerry Fitzsimons	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gerry Kehoe	Naas Wild Food Festival	No additional message.
Gerry Power	Concerned Individual	Because of the imminent danger to our native Hawthorn hedges (and subsequently our wildlife) by the continued importation of non native plants.

Gerry Walsh	South Kildare Beekeepers Association	Please stop the importation of trees from other climates which are not adapted to ours. How can a tree from Portugal that wants to go into leaf in January survive our winter climate. The insects who depend on that tree going into leaf to survive on are being decimated and having knock on effects to the rest of our biodiversity
Gigi McCormack	Concerned Individual	Protecting our native trees and hedgerows is more important than ever. These trees play a huge part in our biodiversity.
Gill Weyman	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gillian Cussen	Concerned Individual	Please stop the importation of foreign Hawthorn trees for ACRES and other uses.
Gillian Gormley	Concerned Individual	Action MUST be taken now. We have already seen what has happened to our native Ash trees. Action. Not excuses.
Gillian O'Connor	Concerned Individual	I support this to stop the spread of Fireblight
Grace Cooney	Concerned Individual	Save our hedgerows from the same destruction as Ash dieback. Stop importing.
Grace Fuller	Concerned Individual	We have already destroyed multiple native trees such as Ash and Oak by importing foreign trees with diseases. We are losing our native landscape at a rate faster than we can protect and the government is to blame!
Grace Halton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Grace Holly	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is a threat to Irish ecosystems
Grace Weir	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Graeme Ward	Concerned Individual	Better stricter checks needed when plants are imported into the country to reduce the problem.
Grainne Corcoran	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Grainne Gaynor	Concerned Individual	This is one of our most loved and well know native plants..which is very valuable to us.
Grainne Tynan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gráinne Dunne	Concerned Individual	Nature protection is urgent and critical.
Gráinne Faller	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gráinne Quinn	Concerned Individual	We can stop this if we get out of short term thinking
Gráinne Tuohy	Concerned Individual	I understand the danger to our native Hawthorn, both from Fireblight and the dilution of the native stock.
Gráinne Vaughan	Glendree Nature Corridors Group	The destruction of hedgerows and disrespect for wildlife breaks my heart
Greg Carroll	Concerned Individual	Please stop bringing in compromised and diseased stock from abroad. This will have no environmental benefit if these diseases kill our already established stock. The landscape is already changing due to Ash dieback diseased trees being cut down. Will we not have the same thing happen to Hawthorn? Save our native trees
Gwen Boyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Gwen Dring	Concerned Individual	It is so important for our ecosystems and wildlife to protect our native hedgerows and Hawthorns
Hannah Little	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Hannah Mole	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Hannah Wallace	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Hazel Conway	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are extremely important to Ireland's ecosystem

Hazel Humphrys	Concerned Individual	I cannot put words to the loss and grief I would feel in a future without Hawthorn blossoms, berries, leaves, thorns, and windswept bare branches in winter... Please protect this beautiful tree.
Hazel Ní Rúairc	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Heather Box	Concerned Individual	Please ensure Ireland is taking full advantage of its unique advantage as an island to prevent the completely unnecessary introduction of threats to our ecological supports. A small difference in price/availability does not justify exposing native hedgerows to disease & death.
Heather Keith	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Heidi Haenschke	Concerned Individual	Protect our degrees and wildlife
heike vornhagen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Helen Finn	Concerned Individual	I am concerned about the threat to our native trees and the hedgerow from imported stock. I feel we should be better to increase supplies of our native stock by expanding on nurseries throughout the country. This would protect us from the threat from invasive species and also give employment opportunities in rural areas
Helen Guerin	Concerned Individual	We must do everything we can possibly do to fight Fireblight.
Helen Haugh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Helen Kenneally	Concerned Individual	Please cease importation of Hawthorn. It makes no sense whatsoever to import when Hawthorn is a treasured native species. Surely as a nation we can provide healthy Irish Hawthorn.

Helen McLoughlin	Concerned Individual	I understand the importance of our native hedgerows for biodiversity and that imported so-called native saplings can bring untold damage in the form of new diseases that Irish trees cannot cope with. Given the dearth of natural woodland and forests, our hedges are more important than ever. It would be a travesty if Fireblight got into our tree population!
Helen Nolan	Concerned Individual	We need our native hedgerows for the protection and preservation of nature and to support biodiversity. Native hedgerows act like highways for nature connecting up in areas providing cover and habitats for plant, insect & wildlife.
Helen Nunan	Concerned Individual	Our Ash trees are decimated, please do not let this happen to our whitethorn too.
Helen O'Dowd	Tracton Biodiversity Group	It would be beyond devastating to our already impoverished landscape and biodiversity if this disease was to take hold, and wipe out our native Hawthorn. Imagine the apocalyptic scene of dead and dying Hawthorns which make up a huge portion of our hedgerows. Imagine the lost beauty of our countryside swathed in white carpets of May blossom .
Helen Veale	Concerned Individual	Why does your government not listen to the real experts? You have the Green Party sharing power and still these disasters continue. Stop thinking about how you can save ministers salaries and do what you were elected to do.
Helico Di Pipistrello	Beagh Rare Plants Nurseries	We would appreciate your attention to this problem please! Kind regards! HP
Herbert Farrell	INRBS and organic island farmer on Lough Ree	Stop every and all potential and confirmed threats to all our native flora and fauna.
Hilary Kelly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Hilary Last	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Hilda O'Grady	Kinvara tidy towns	Want to support all actions to stop this disease spreading.

Hugh Bonar	Concerned Individual	I would urge you to consider a ban on the importation of Hawthorn seedlings as it seems to me to be both unnecessary and problematic from a phytological safety point of view.
Ian Douglas	ID Environmental Consultants Ltd	Losing Whitethorn would mean the end of farmland nature; full stop. It is the most important woody species in Ireland. No scheme on the initiative is worth more than what we would lose if Fireblight takes hold in Ireland.
Ian Fleming	Nargc	Love this tree
Imelda Byrne	Concerned Individual	We need to save our beautiful native trees from this dreadful disease
Imelda Connolly	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is/has been a beautiful tree in our countryside, so important for wildlife also. Please learn from previous lessons and stop importing diseases. Fund Irish nursery growth to meet demands.
Imelda O'Connell	Concerned Individual	Please STOP importing plants. Grow them in Ireland.
Ingrid Smyth	GLDA	Fireblight needs to stopped
Irene Maguire	Member of One Future Dun Laoghaire	We need our government to attend to the science & the experiences of relevant learnings elsewhere & take action in a timely & responsible manner to protect our environment & livelihoods. Thanks for highlighting this issue.
Irene Treacy	Concerned Individual	I don't want to see the countryside blighted with Fireblight. Save our native hedgerows.
Isabelle Forrest	Concerned Individual	I'm a horticultural student in UCD, home to ancient native Irish apple trees and I helped plant these ACRES hedgerows. I don't have years of experience but I know importing these plants that we can grow natively in the wake of the Ash dieback disaster is naive and irresponsible. Irish nurseries should be supported through the influx in demand.

Iseult Honohan	Concerned Individual	I am concerned about the spread of Fireblight and the impact of importing whitethorn on native whitethorn trees that are such an important part of the Irish hedgerows, which in turn are important to a wide variety of wildlife and the environment.
Ita Sherlock	ID Environmental Consultants	The loss of whitethorn from Ireland is truly a nightmare scenario from both financial and environmental perspectives. This is a problem on a considerably larger scale than Ash dieback. We need decisive action and joined up thinking!
J Farrell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jack Matthews	Louth Regional Game Council	We need to encourage more healthy hedges to support our birds and wildlife.
Jack O Donovan	Concerned Individual	Please don't let us have a repeat of Ash dieback on our Fairy Tree.
Jack Tanner	Student	Please protect our Hedgerows and the future biodiversity that is reliant on them.
Jackie Rasmus	Concerned Individual	We need to stop the importation of trees and plants that are a risk to our native trees and shrubs and wildlife
Jacqueline Teegarden	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
james carroll	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
James Carton	DCU	Elm is gone, Ash is gone, don't allow Hawthorn or oak to disappear from our culture
James Coleman	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
James Dooley	Farmer	Please let us not repeat the mistakes made in relation to Ash Die-back again this time with Fireblight. The impact will be far more devastating. As a farmer, who has invested years in planting, maintaining and nurturing biodiversity, especially hedgerows on my farm, I don't see how we will have any hope left for nature if this materializes.

James Gilmartin	Treasure Leitrim	No additional message.
James Kennedy	Concerned Individual	It would be grossly negligent to allow, possibly Fireblight infected, plants into Ireland when hundreds of Hawthorn saplings are available and can simply be dug up to be transplanted into ACRES hedgerows, apart from those supplied by tree nurseries, thereby overcoming shortage of supply.
James McArdle	Concerned Individual	Save irish native hedgerows
James McGarry	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
James Murphy	Farmer	It seems incredible that plants, especially Hawthorn, should be imported into Ireland for the acres scheme with the high risk of importing this disease. Importing Hawthorn puts much more of my and the nation's hedgerows at risk.
James Powell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jamie A	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jamie Casey	Concerned Individual	We must protect our native trees.
Jamie Murphy	Love Leitrim	No additional message.
Jan Melia	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jan Musgrave	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is hugely concerning. Why risk our beautiful hedgerows .. the lungs of Ireland. Stop importing non native trees, to fuel a scheme that is not being monitored properly. Wasting taxpayers money, and putting our hedgerows at risk.
Jane Doughty	Concerned Individual	Biosecurity vital. Hawthorn grows well here so imports are not necessary. Support and protect our existing native biodiversity and stop removing old hedgerows and replacing them with imported plants. Species that can be cultivated in Ireland with native stock reducing risk of pests and

		diseases and supporting local growers is SIMPLE COMMON SENSE!
Jane Heffernan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jane Jackson	80 Max	Dear Minister, it is pointless to try and tackle environmental issues with regard to biodiversity if we do not first protect what we have. So far in recent years we have imported Ash dieback, oak processionary moth, now Fireblight all diseases that decimating our most iconic native trees. Importing "native" trees and seeds is like playing with fire.
Jane O'Sullivan	Sneem Tidytowns	Please stop importing Hawthorn and other native tree species, have no lessons been learned from Ash, this decision is crazy to allow their importation. We should be supported in growing our own. Old Hedgerows are still being ripped out, this needs to be stopped and more education put into hedge laying, etc.
Jane Williams	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Janet Laffey	Green Sod Ireland	Fireblight would destroy our hedgerows and the miles of habitat and diversity that they support. Please stop the importation of trees, our children will be left with a desolate, utterly changed landscape if we don't.
Janet Sheehy	Concerned Individual	The prospect of losing our iconic hedgerow Hawthorn trees is heartbreaking. It beggars belief that, after the disaster of Ash dieback which was introduced by imported saplings, Hawthorns carrying Fireblight have been imported. Why was this allowed to happen?
Janice Leonard	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jarlath Costello	Concerned Individual	We have completely failed to stop Ash dieback, meaning the next generations won't know what one looks like. We can't afford to let the same happen to Hawthorns.
Jason Linton	Concerned Individual	Please take greater steps to protect our hedgerows and the wildlife they support.

Jayne Gaffney	Concerned Individual	To protect our trees
jean Heraty	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jeannette Campbell	Concerned Individual	I believe in the biodiversity of hedges and a reduction in the need for wire fencing.
Jeff O'Mahony	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jen Fisher	Kinvara Climate Action	Why are we opening the door for the transport of pests, diseases and invasive species when this could be prevented so easily.
Jen Moore	Concerned Individual	Please save our beautiful hedgerows by eliminating this disease ASAP
Jennifer Carey	Concerned Individual	We can't stand back and let this happen. To lose our beloved hedgerows of Hawthorn and Rowan would be an ecological disaster for wildlife and a very very sad day for us humans. It is of utmost importance that we protect our native hedgerows. Please read the enclosed letter and take action immediately before it's too late.
Jennifer Cunningham	Concerned Individual	Stop importing hedgerow plants from Europe
Jennifer Doolan	None	I think the Government should be doing more to protect the environment, wildlife habitat and marine life. Without plants, flowers and hedgerows nature and human habitat will be affected in the years to come.
Jennifer Lyons	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jennifer Nolan	Concerned Individual	We want to support the prevention of the spread of Fireblight in Hawthorn!! We can do this by not importing Hawthorn from abroad!!
Jennifer O Shaughnessy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Jennifer Rowe	Concerned Individual	Although there is an increased demand for native species it's important that plants are not imported with pathogens that will decimate native species.
Jenny Dungan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jenny Maloney	Concerned Individual	I don't want to see what has happened to our beloved native Ash happen to our native Hawthorn too. Stop the import!
Jenny Nagle	Concerned Individual	We should be using Irish seed and Irish grown plants, not imported materials.
Jenny O'Hare	Wild Minds	Our precious native species are in such sparsity already, any threat will devastate the populations. Our beloved Hawthorn in particular - emblematic in our folklore and plant medicines, we cannot afford to risk this.
Jenny Stein	Concerned Individual	Please preserve our hedgerows and desist on the importation of infected species
Jenny Wall	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jenny Watkins	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jerilyn Ingram	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jessie Byrne	Concerned Individual	Awareness about this is crucial now so we don't end up with a situation like Ash dieback
Jill Hahn	Concerned Individual	For the love of god will ye stop importing trees for the ACRES (and other) schemes - stop prioritizing "cost effectiveness" over biosecurity. We need to be planting native trees and hedgerows so why do you not create jobs for growers here in Ireland who could provide native grown trees/hedgerow for tree planting schemes in the future?
Jillian Delaney	Turner's Cross Climate Action Group	Please take all measures as outlined in the attached letter to protect our invaluable native hedgerows

Jim Malone	Concerned Individual	Safeguarding our native plants and trees is of paramount importance. Imports of similar plants from the EU need to be very strictly regulated to avoid the spread of Fireblight and other diseases.
Jim Mc Namara	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is the backbone of our hedges and the rural landscape. It's the living pharmacy and food store for much of our wildlife. Like Ash dieback this disease can be devastating and must be prevented from spreading further.
Jimmy O'Keeffe	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jo Goodyear	Concerned Individual	We need to support Irish tree nurseries to increase production of Hawthorn and other native trees and shrubs. Importing trees always leaves the possibility of infections which can devastate our native flora. I hope we have learned the lesson from Ash dieback. Grow native trees from native seeds!
Jo Lynch	Concerned Individual	This is serious please address thanks
Jo Murphy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Joan Casey	Concerned Individual	Please act early
Joan King	Concerned Individual	Importing problems costing the country and individuals
Joan Lennon	INTO	Our hedgerows need protection. They are vital in the world of nature
Joan McDonald	Concerned Individual	Dear Minister I am joining the signatories to this open letter as I live in Co. Clare we are reeling from the loss of all the Ash trees in our hedgerows (as well as flooding, and the complete absence of swallows this year). We are in a crisis. Please don't make things worse.
Joan Mulvany	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
joanna hopkins	Artist	Save our Hawthorns

Joanne Breton	Concerned Individual	Please can we minimise the importation of plants, and rather grow seedlings here for planting.
Joanne Hession	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Joe Con	Farmer	There are thousands of us in this country in a slowly, trudging march of grief as we watch our beautiful Ash trees succumb to dieback. It is like watching a part of ourselves wither and die. The thought of losing our primary hedgerow staple - our ancient Hawthorn is enough to make one feel utterly despondent. We must fix this.
Joe Kelly	Concerned Individual	Take action before our landscapes are devastated by Fireblight, which it preventable
Joe O'dwyer	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Johana Vankova	Concerned Individual	How could this be allowed? After what happened with Ash trees?
Johanna Wakeham	Concerned Individual	The Irish government is responsible for knowingly importing diseased Ash. Now they are doing it again with Fireblight. Where is the sense? Destroying our heritage and landscape.
John Baker	Earth Restore	Can't say anything polite here. I am so angry about the way our landscape is being abused.
John Cashman	Newbridge Tidy Towns	Minister please look into this issue. Thank You
John Cussen	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are important to me and to the biodiversity of our environment.
John Doran	Concerned Individual	Please act to avoid further damage to our environment.
John Dunne	IFA	Have they learned anything from the mistakes of the Ash

John Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	<p>Agriculture, especially Dairy, Beef and Tillage, have decimated our native hedgerows. Up to 6000 kilometres are lost every year. That is unacceptable and must be urgently addressed. Hedgerows are a public good and need greater protection.</p> <p>https://www.rte.ie/news/Ireland/2022/0210/1278993-hedgerows-Ireland/</p>
John Fuller	Concerned Individual	I fully support this petition. The government must intervene to prevent the spread of Fireblight.
John Graham	Concerned Individual	The Ash dieback has been a sad lingering saga, soon to leave the historic Ash to the history books. Now we see a new bacteria coming towards us please please organize the troops to contain and eradicate the disease not the hedges
John Hilliard	Concerned Individual	We need to maintain a healthy biodiversity and ensure infectious diseases including plants are properly eradicated. Japanese knotweed is still on the rise as is Ash dieback.
John Jobson	Concerned Individual	Early intervention is essential.
John Keenlyside	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
John Kennedy	Concerned Individual	There is a biodiversity emergency in Ireland. In our hedgerows we have lost our elm, we are losing our Ash, and imports of non-native oak (containing processionary moth) and non-native Hawthorn are now threatening these iconic species in our landscape. We must take the above practical steps to try and protect what native biodiversity remains for future generations.
John Lawler	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
John McDonald	IFA	A 5 year planned programme for hedge planting using only Irish nurseries stock.
John McLaughlin	Inch Partridge Project	Protect our hedgerows
John O'Driscoll	KRGWC	No additional message.

John O'Keeffe	Concerned Individual	Please act now to protect our hedgerows, they're a vital ecosystem in our nature denuded country
John O'Reilly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
John Plunkett	Plunkett Farm	I endorse this letter for all reasons outlined therein.
John Stack	John Stack	No additional message.
John Stephens	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
John Thorp	NIHBS	Fireblight cannot be treated.
John Tierney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
John J Mulhare	Agri-Advice Ltd	Forcing farmers in ACRES to plant their hedges using imported planting material is almost guaranteed to lead to the destruction of our natural hedgerows which are of immense environmental, historical and cultural benefit to our island. Ash dieback, dutch elm disease, box blight and blackgrass are just some examples of what has already happened within our ecosystem
John Jackie O'Connor	Concerned Individual	Please stop the import of plants that spread Fireblight
John P Delaney	Concerned Individual	Please Minister, and Officials, read this letter and act on it immediately. I would love to leave Ireland as a wonderful place for my grandchildren.
Johnny Coyne	Lough Corrib adventures	No additional message.
Jojo Hynes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jonnie Goyer	Concerned Individual	This is a really serious issue for hedgerows and all the insects and small mammals they support. Urgent action is needed.
Josephine Culleton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Joshua Dyson	Concerned Individual	Too many destructive diseases are being spread from country to country, coming into Ireland, on imported plants. Action should be taken to stop the import of such plants, perhaps even stop the import of plants altogether if it is impossible to prevent the import of such diseases on them.
Judith Devlin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Judy Dunwoody	Concerned Individual	We can stop this now. Fireblight does not have to be inevitable.
Judy Naylor	Tidy towns	This is a very serious problem
Julia Strickland	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Julie Forrester	Concerned Individual	Please take care of our hedgerows
Julie Lee	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Julie Smirnova	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Julie Smith	Concerned Individual	As we are an island, we are in a good position to avoid disease breakouts. Please make use of this great advantage we have, & stop importing plants unnecessarily.
Juliet Mullins	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
June Galligan	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is a problem & we need to stop importing Hawthorn & similar plants. We can grow our own & I hope the minister will take this open letter seriously, as it is extremely important.
Justin O'Connell	Concerned Individual	To prevent destruction of hedgerows, fruit trees etc
Justin Yssel	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Jutta Brassil	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our native woodland and hedgerows

Karen Banbury	Concerned Individual	Stop importing trees and hedge plants open nurseries selling native Irish trees
Karen Loxton	Concerned Individual	How can this be happening again after Ash Dieback? The incompetence of those responsible is breathtaking.
Karen Tierney	Concerned Individual	There are kilometres of native hedgerows on my family's land. We've already lost the Ash from the landscape, please prioritise whatever action is possible to save the Hawthorn.
Karenina Dunne	Concerned Individual	I don't agree with importing trees and plants from other countries, which can be grown in Ireland. This practice threatens our plant life and foreign bodies like fungus and flatworms enter the Irish ecosystem. Stricter measures like Australia use need to be in place. Also invasive species being sold in nurseries & garden centers needs to stop.
Karina Carroll	Karina Carroll	No additional message.
Karl Clarke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Karyn O'Brien	Concerned Individual	Let's nip this in the bud and stop importing disease.
Kasia Kaminska	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are already being decimated due to mismanagement and removal, don't decimate them at the point of planting too!
Kate B	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kate Ballard	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kate Carmody	Beal Organic Cheese	No additional message.
Kate Flood	Community Wetlands Forum	No additional message.
Kate Kiely	Concerned Individual	Stop importing plants that threaten our native stock.
Kate McAney	Concerned Individual	Why are we importing Hawthorn and putting our wildlife and living landscape at risk?

Kate Moore	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kate O Carroll	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our hedgerows!!
Kate O Dwyer	Concerned Individual	The importance of Hawthorn cannot be measured especially in relation to its use for herbal medicine and tinctures. It's very difficult to see the Ash trees with dieback but I don't think we can imagine how the countryside would look without Hawthorn, the West of Ireland would be a very different place.
Kate Powell	Concerned Individual	Having seen all the Ash trees around here disappear, I can't bear the thought of this happening to Hawthorn as well. Use mixed hedgerow saplings. Hawthorn not needed to keep stock in anymore
Katharine Woods	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Katherine Kelliher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kathleen Moore	Concerned Individual	Save our hedgerows.
Kathy Buckley	Concerned Individual	It is horrendous to allow imports that may harbor Fireblight and devastate our hedgerows, and this our wildlife.
Kathy Hallinan	Concerned Individual	Fully support the sentiments in the open letter
Kathy Merrins	Two Mile House Biodiversity and Heritage Group	No additional message.
Katie Glynn	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Katie Murphy	Concerned Individual	I can't believe that there was no learning from importing Ash dieback at a time when we need to be increasingly biodiversity and minding our native plants

Katie Slater	L. A Horticulture QQI L 4	I support this open letter out of great concern for Irish native trees and the impact that this disease has the potential to have on the biodiversity of our already struggling natural world.
Katie Smirnova	Hedgerows Ireland	We need more clarity on how Fireblight's alert status is decided. Ireland's landscape, cultural history, and biodiversity would not be the same without Hawthorn. As well as improving how we manage hedgerows, we must do everything we can to stop Fireblight spreading through them. By suspending imports of trees, we would also reduce the risk of other diseases entering Ireland.
Katrien Cogan	Concerned Individual	Minister McConalogue, My name is Katrien Cogan and I am signing this open letter with the sincerest of hopes you will take radical and immediate action to protect our native Hawthorn. The health of our plant citizens and their safeguarding has a value that is limitless. Many thanks in advance
Katy Mullins	Concerned Individual	Facing an already bleak prospect of biodiversity in Ireland's future it is beyond salt in the wound to import more threats to our hedge groves. Importing disease as opposed to investing in native forestry is irrational to anyone that isn't involved in this for financial gain.
Kayleigh Brierley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Keelan Hawksby	Kinsale College	No additional message.
Keelin Quigley	Wildflower Health	Our hedgerows are important habitats for lots of wild animals & birds. Our trees are keepers of wisdom, they provide healing, beauty & are important to regulate climate, preserve soil & form part of an important network for our wildlife to live & travel safely.
keith Armitage	Concerned Individual	No need to import native trees into Ireland.

Keith Brennan	Concerned Individual	As a farmer, having put in Hawthorn hedgerow, it's essential to protect that, our existing hedgerows, and our pollinators, wildlife and biodiversity. We failed with Ash. We cannot afford to fail with Hawthorn.
Keith Foran	NARGC	Well done.
Kelsey Knight	Concerned Individual	To preserve the natural wildlife of Ireland, to support the continuation of health amongst the native trees and to stop the importation that carries the destructive infestation of Fireblight.
Kenneth Keavey	Green Earth Organics	Our trees are our future and our heritage. We must protect them for the sake of biodiversity and for the natural beauty of our countryside.
Kevin Corrigan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kevin Duffy	Concerned Individual	This is a critical intervention.
Kevin O'Reilly	Concerned Individual	Fireblight from imported trees represents one of the greatest threats to our native biodiversity. We must not let Fireblight become the next Ash dieback
Kevin V. Mulligan	Concerned Individual	The potential for further losses to our already diminishing hedgerows is unthinkable, and the matter must be addressed with urgency!
Kieran Healy	South Kildare Beekeepers Association	With Ash trees already close to being wiped out in Ireland, putting our Hawthorn in jeopardy doesn't bear contemplation. We must not import Hawthorns but raise our own.
Killian Bannon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Killian Griffin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kim Eustsce	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our hedgerows, use native saplings and stop importing altogether...the hedgerows are under pressure as it is, being hacked the way they are, they need to be protected and managed much better

Kim Lewis	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Kinta Oakes	Kinta Oakes Landscape Design	We obviously need action on this now. There are enough diseases that our natives are having to deal with Ash dieback, Dutch elm disease. Oak permissary moth. Now Fireblight. Please stop this now.
Kylie O'Brien	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are such an important habitat that needs to be protected from imported diseases, like Fireblight. Recent government funding to support the regeneration and planting of new hedgerows is fantastic but the terms of the funding programs must protect from the importation of disease, or we risk devastation of the hedgerows as we have seen for Ash with Ash dieback.
Laney Mannion	Artist/ Farmer	Living in an area of special conservation in Connemara, I'm acutely aware of the threat of Fireblight and what it means for the hedgerows of Ireland and our very sacred trees is absolutely horrifying. It is pertinent that action is to be taken now, to handle this threat swiftly and not go looking for a Panacea after the fact.
Larry Sweeney	Banner Beekeepers Association	Stop the importation of non native Hawthorn trees into Ireland, and also prevent the importation of non native bees into Ireland.
Laura Barron	Concerned Individual	Importing diseased whitethorn is crazy. There are 3 years left in the ACRES scheme. Why not plant the whitethorn in the last year which would give time to grow Irish whips. Delay in decision making will mean disaster. Listen to the advice now. Avoid recriminations later.
Laura Bortolaso	Concerned Individual	Trees and the environment are already at risk for different reasons. Start REALLY taking care of our native species and Irish land!
Laura Dinraths	Concerned Individual	Ireland's native fauna must be managed responsibly and diseases through importing non native species must come to an end.
Laura Doyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Laura Finn	Concerned Individual	Government shouldn't allow importation of trees that risks the existence of our own native trees
Laura Hynes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura Kavanagh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura Lynch	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura Merren	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura Moore	Concerned Individual	Please do not carry out the reckless and foolish actions of importing from abroad what grows well and naturally in Ireland. Heed the disaster of the Ash dieback and be wise enough to not repeat it.
Laura O'Brien	Concerned Individual	I want to protect our native hedgerows, there is already too little habitat for our wildlife.
Laura R	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura Ward	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Laura-Blaise McDowell	Concerned Individual	Ireland's hedgerows are an invaluable and crucial resource for biodiversity and heritage and need to be protected.
Lauren Tanner	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lavena Campbell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Leanne Kavanagh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lee Carabini	Concerned Individual	Save the hedgerows!
Lee O'Brien	Concerned Individual	Save our hedgerows

Leo Smith	Portumna tidy towns and Portumna community school biodiversity group	Such a beautiful iconic native species- spread the word of actions that need to be taken to prevent the spread of this devastating disease.
Lesley Lawn	Concerned Individual	This is a most urgent issue which needs to be addressed NOW. No time for the government to delay
Lesley Merriman	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Liam Flanagan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Liam O'Brien	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Liam O'Reilly	Louth Beekeepers association	Fireblight must be prevented as it will wipe out native plant species also we must ban importation of honey bees
Liam Quaide	Social Democrats	No additional message.
Liam Ward	Concerned Individual	The protection of our nation's hedgerows is an obligation which must be carried out.
Lieke Munsters	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lin Leo	DP SEC	We need Native Treecover.
Linda Gilsenan	Concerned Individual	Fireblight will destroy our hedgerow system, one of the last habitats for wildlife. I am against the importation of any native tree stock because of the risk of invasive tree diseases. It would be better to plant nothing now and allow the Irish nurseries a few years to propagate sticks. Please don't allow it under ACRES.
Linda Lalor	Mixed Native Garden Hedge owner	Walking around the countryside I've seen so many trees I knew in my childhood disappear or come under threat from disease and it really makes me so sad ,especially for the next generations. I'm putting my name to this open letter in order to fight to save our beautiful countryside hedgerows and the wildlife they support, yours sincerely, Linda Lalor.

Linda MacCarthy	Concerned Individual	Our natural heritage is precious. These symptoms, and the consequences of irreversible damage, are dreadful.
Lindsey Buchet	Concerned Individual	The hedgerows are an important habitat for native plants and wildlife
Lisa Cleary	Concerned Individual	Save hedgerows!
Lisa Doyle	Friends of Ardee Bog	There is no shortage of native stock. The devastating consequences of using non-native species is well documented. Think & shop local
Lisa Kelly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lisa Nihill	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lisa Whelton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Liz Mc auley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Llewyn Máire	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lorcan Murphy	Concerned Individual	It is imperative that we stop the spread of Fireblight to save our landscape and our wild life.
Lorna Bryson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lorna EVERS	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lorna Farrell	Concerned Individual	We need to prevent the spread of this terrible disease by monitoring the influx of non Ireland seeds even of the same native species. These are iconic, heritage rich, environmentally crucial plants. They are under threat. They are part of the fabric of our country. We need to promote the growth of native plants from Irish nurseries. We must act fast.
Lorna Halligan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Lorraine McGreevy	Concerned Individual	Beautiful hedgerows in Roscommon, please act to protect what we have.
Lorraine O'dwyer	Gallivanting Tours	No additional message.
Lou McManmon	Concerned Individual	Please protect our hedgerows
Louis Cormack	Concerned Individual	It's very important that an outbreak is prevented
Louis Peacock	Louis Peacock ecology	Importing trees to Ireland to help the environment isn't sensible, promote Irish tree growers for locally sourced seeds. We have the climate for it! Biosecurity basics are a necessity here-learn from Ash dieback.
Louisa Earls	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Louise Butler	Artist	There are thousands of trees with Ash dieback and something needs to be done to help this cause
Louise Flood	Concerned Individual	I believe we can be self sufficient with our own hedging and it is better for the county
Louise Jordan	Concerned Individual	We must prevent the importation of contaminated plants.
Louise Mac Elwain	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants	It is essential for the government to intensify efforts in combating Fireblight. Strengthening preventative measures and implementing effective control strategies is crucial at this stage to prevent the devastating impacts similar to those witnessed with Ash dieback. Action is needed before it is too late.
Louise Overy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lucille Redmond	Concerned Individual	The Hawthorn hedges of Ireland are our ancient heritage - the reverence for them is shown by reluctance to cut down "fairy trees", showing the need to keep safe these trees and bushes, easily rooted from cuttings and a traditional source of vitamins C and B, one of the great beauties of Ireland with their frothy cream-coloured blossoms in spring.

Lucy Henehan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lucy Jenkins	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Lucy Taylor	Concerned Individual	It concerns me deeply that yet another disease related to imported plants is going to damage our fragile and extremely important hedgerows. Ireland needs to urgently step up production in fully native nurseries that use only locally sourced seeds, increase its biosecurity measures where imports are necessary, and value our native, local flora.
Lydia Shallcross	Concerned Individual	We can't let another imported disease get a grip on our landscape. Please stop importation now.
Lyn Brookes	The Cottage Garden	We have continuously seen the folly in importing trees, pests and diseases. About time there were more initiatives set up to enable more nurseries to grow native trees on the island of Ireland. It would appear phytosanitary certificates are not working, we need to grow stock for ACRES schemes in Ireland.
Lynda Kiernan	Concerned Individual	My historic 1 acre cottage holding is surrounded by whitethorn with old apple trees, and without whitethorn hedges which make up most hedgerows everywhere, Ireland's biodiversity will be desolated entirely, ban imports!! This is an emergency.
Lynn Shead	Natures Alchemy	No additional message.
M Eversen	Concerned Individual	With the Ash dieback and the vast monoculture plantations of spruce we can't afford the loss of our hedgerows!!! Take the biodiversity crisis seriously!!!
M Hayes	Environmental Trust Ireland	We are in a serious biodiversity crisis. Loss of native hedgerows will exasperate this ecological crisis. There is a complete misunderstanding and lack of appreciation about ecosystems and how they are interrelated. The relevant provision in the ACRES circular needs to be revised and relevant phytosanitary and quarantine measures introduced urgently.

M Jones	Concerned Individual	Native Irish hedgerows should comprise of native plants. The Hawthorn is essential to wildlife biodiversity and is deeply embedded in Irish culture and folklore. To lose it at a time when we see the Ash trees die all around us, for the same reason, is inexcusable. If there is a chance to halt the spread, it must be immediate.
M Lehane	Concerned Individual	To support hedgerows
Maeve Connolly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Maeve Connolly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Maeve McCann	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows and native trees are vital for our landscape and biodiversity. We must do everything we can to protect them from a human introduced issue.
Maeve Moran	Concerned Individual	Our native hedgerows are a biodiversity cornerstone and part of our ecological and cultural heritage, and must be protected as such.
Maeve Stone	Concerned Individual	In any given county hedgerows are often the last remaining wild capillaries that support our native ecosystems. If we lose them we lose everything!
Maggie Geary	Concerned Individual	It is time to take Irish bio security seriously. You know there is a biodiversity crisis. Now act like you know there is a biodiversity crisis. Stop importing invasive species and disease.
Maighr�ad N� Annrchan	Concerned Individual	Act now to save our hedgerows before it's too late Don't be responsible for the next ecological disaster
Maisie Lynch	Concerned Individual	Please take action on Hedgerow Ireland's campaign about Fireblight's growing threat to Irish ecosystems. Fireblight is highly contagious and all infected trees must be destroyed. I support Hedgerow Ireland's call on the government to take action to halt the spread of this destructive infection.

Maitiú O'Flanghaile	Concerned Individual	Have you learnt nothing from the past? The decimation of our beloved and important Ash trees being the latest disaster. Importing Hawthorn into Ireland is insanity! A little planning, imagination and funding would easily allow us to be an exporter of healthy Hawthorn & other trees. Wake up!
Majella Daly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Manning Kate	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Marc Barker	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Maree Mc Guinness	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Marese Hickey	Concerned Individual	The Hawthorn is an important tree for biodiversity, and its berries also yield a herbal and homeopathic remedy for heart problems. It is an important tree and needs to be protected. Thank you for your help.
Margaret Edgill	Mount Briscoe Organic Farm	Because a) for biodiversity as we have a considerable quantity of hedgerows on our farm B) for the food I make from harvesting fruit C) for our heritage orchard and new orchard which is predominantly apple. It only compounds the impact of Ash due back of which I have a forestry creating no biodiversity or income. It's a scandal
Margaret Gerrard	Concerned Individual	Everything possible must be done to protect what hedgerows we have left. More than enough of them are lost or vandalized already.
Margaret Griffiths	Concerned Individual	I am upset at the thought of the damage being done to our native species
Margaret Harrington	Concerned Individual	I wish to preserve our hedgerows going forward.
Margaret Joyce	Community Garden, Donnycarney	No additional message.

margaret moore	Former student organic college drumcollogher	Sow native seeds, stop importing disease risk
Margaret Mulligan	Roscommon Environmental Network	I support the open letter because the bringing of this bacterial disease to Ireland is an absolute disgrace. It is sad that the Government knew about this disease but failed to allow our own producers to develop the necessary plants. Disgraceful.
Margaret Sheehan	Headford Environment Group	We are already suffering huge losses from Ash Dieback which makes fighting Fireblight doubly urgent.
Margaret Walsh	Concerned Individual	Protect the Hawthorn and other trees from Fireblight
Margaret Ward	Hedgerows Ireland	No additional message.
Margo Carr	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Margy Mayell	Concerned Individual	Hope this is successful
Maria Donegan	Concerned Individual	Please protect our beautiful Hawthorn trees.
Maria Louw	Concerned Individual	We need to protect native species!
Maria Purcell	Concerned Individual	Shocking this petition has to be created to influence what self preservation should dictate, spread of disease has potential to be rapid & fatal, contractor hedge cutting can spread this rapidly across localities decimating hedgerows across the country. Too late to sort when damage has been done!
Maria Rogers	Concerned Individual	Our biodiversity is already on a knife edge. We must do all we can to prevent this from spreading.
Maria Young	Spaces for Health	Stop importing "native" trees that endanger our indigenous stock. We can grow our own species in tree nurseries, there is no need to import
Marian Heelan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Marian Lee	Farmer	As I watch Ash trees being cut down it's so sad to think it could be hedges next. No it has to stop
Marie Galvin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Marie Gordon	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine - to call attention to the importance of implementing the recommended measures to tackle Fireblight in Ireland as a matter of urgency. Our shared biodiversity crisis is linked to this and the wide climate change issue and requires immediate attention.
Marie O'Dwyer	Concerned Individual	It is vital our biodiversity is protected. It is also vital for our own native Irish trees, shrubs and
Marie Power	The Sea Gardener	I fully support Hedgerow Ireland's Open Letter outlining key steps to tackle the problem of Fireblight. We are already losing biodiversity and hedgerows to poor cutting and cannot afford further losses.
Marie Power	Concerned Individual	I support this letter as hedgerows are synonymous with the beautiful Irish landscape. We should do all we can to ensure their safety for future generations to enjoy
Marie Richardson	Concerned Individual	"When will we ever learn..." the Doomsday Clock ticks on, Biodiversity loss increases, our Marine Protected Areas are violated, yet our Government and policy makers, knowingly and deliberately avoid taking radical preventative action! Why? How? Fireblight is just the latest in an ever increasing list of threats to our environment. What does it take to finally say "ENOUGH" & mean it?
Marie rooney	Concerned Individual	I love Hawthorn. It's an integral part of our landscape. When our son died and was buried in a natural burial ground, we chose a Hawthorn to be planted at the head of his grave.
Marika Dunne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Marilyne Montpellier	FET Horticulture student	No additional message.

Marina Carr Moore	Concerned Individual	Please prevent the introduction of Fireblight and loss of the essential hedgerows that make Ireland.
Marina L	Concerned Individual	I am concerned for the health of the Hawthorn hedgerows! They need to be protected from harm. If there is any risk of disease, this needs to be prevented ASAP.
Marina Ní Mhurchú	Concerned Individual	We need to protect Irish native trees which are being destroyed by imported species spreading bacterial diseases.
Marion Parker	Roscommon Environmental Network	We cannot on one hand be continually talking and putting in place actions to protect our biodiversity and then allowing our beautiful and historic hedgerows to be destroyed. Why are imports being allowed at this stage after what happened to our Ash trees? I support this letter.
Marita Barry	Concerned Individual	Stop the spread of Fireblight
Mark Gibney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mark Green	Concerned Individual	Avoid a repeat of the Ash dieback disaster by banning non-native Hawthorn and increase long-term support for tree nurseries.
Mark Jervis	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mark Kavanagh	Irish Daily Star	No additional message.
Mark Kavanagh	Roots and Reconnections	It is an utter disgrace how wilfully the Irish government disregards nature for the sake of a quick profit. Our value system needs to change or the destruction of nature will be complete.
Mark McCormick	Concerned Individual	Have been horrified by the indiscriminate destruction of hedgerows over the past 20 years and very alarmed by the potential for disease brought in from nurseries abroad to further damage the remainder
Mark McDowell	Hedgerows Ireland	Unlike most politicians, if I let this happen on my watch and did nothing at all I'd know I had failed my children who will never see Ireland as it should be.

Mark Morris	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Martha Ryan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Martha Walsh	Concerned Individual	What is going on?!! First Ash dieback and now this! Please act to prevent the loss of thousands of km of iconic hedges. Martha Walsh
Martin Conroy	Concerned Individual	Protect biodiversity by planting Irish grown trees and hedging.
Martin Conroy	Concerned Individual	We have already destroyed our native Ash with imported trees. Current grant schemes are destroying hedgerows that have survived for hundreds of years.
Martin Kearney	Concerned Individual	We'd rather not have the forty plus fruit trees on our allotment killed by a random Fireblight outbreak.
Martin Reading	Ballycullane Tidy Towns	Local grown for local use
Martin Rochford	Concerned Individual	I am extremely concerned that Fireblight may spread in Ireland and decimate Hawthorne and other trees around the country.
Martin Rochford	Concerned Individual	Allowing the importation of Hawthorn from overseas risks all our hedgerows. Much better would be to completely disallow the removal of any hedgerows
Martina Finn	Center for Environmental Living & Training - CELT	We support the urgent call to reinstate the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirements for Hawthorn in ACRES hedgerow planting and delay planting actions until the demand-supply gap is filled and to suspend all imports of Hawthorn plants due to the potential risk of importing disease.
Martina Finn	Third Space Galway	Hedgerows are a vital part of the health and wellbeing of our ecosystem. They need to be protected. Please stop destructive importation practices and protect our natural and cultural heritage.

Martina O'Dea	Concerned Individual	Dear Minister, Why did your Department think it was a good idea to import Hawthorn into Ireland after importation of Ash which resulted in Ash dieback Without trees we will not exist. I am appalled at the irresponsible actions of your Dept and the devastating consequences for many trees, wildlife and economic consequences for many people.
Mary Ahern	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are critical to support biodiversity which is already under threat.
Mary Attridge-Jones	GrowingANew.	Native species needed to sequester carbon. Importing carries a high risk. Support home grown trees and seeds. Provide sustainable growing and planting, through locally supported growers. Protect existing Hawthorn in hedgerows. No cut without assessment by recognized Fireblight experts. We need Hawthorn for biodiversity, it marks the provision of food through the seasons. Hawthorn is part of us.
Mary Balfe	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Buckley	Tidy Towns	No additional message.
Mary Casey	Concerned Individual	Because it is vitally important to protect our native hedgerows.
Mary Cleary	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Collins Walsh	Concerned Individual	I have been horrified that an idea to import Hawthorns into Ireland was even considered, let alone sanctioned and activated by the Dept. of Agriculture and our Minister of Agriculture and Marine. What is wrong with everyone? Ash dieback, the unique cry of the curlews, gone, along with so much biodiversity loss. Importing non native Hawthorns is more unnecessary risk.
Mary Cronin	Cairde na Coillte Forest school	It is government's job to act on behalf of the good of the country. Please DO YOUR JOB, protect our

		trees, protect our native habitats, protect our country.
Mary Darley	Concerned Individual	Please do everything possible to extinguish Fireblight in our hedgerows
mary dineen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Fitzsimons	Concerned Individual	We can grow our own trees. We need to be more circumspect regarding importation of. Plants and fruit. We already are losing Ash trees. We don't need to lose Hawthorn hedges too. We didn't have fruit flies until 2008, now they're everywhere in hedges . Enough. We need a proper biosecurity border Including NI.
Mary Flynn	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter because untold damage is done to the natural habitat, flora and fauna. It is also a serious cause of pollution and destruction to the local environment.
Mary Gregory	Concerned Individual	Minister, let's not be lazy about this and do something before it's too late. It's bad enough getting something like this wrong once. Let's learn from our mistakes in the past and plan properly for schemes such as Acres. Promote the growth of native tree nurseries to produce Irish provenance trees for these schemes.
Mary Lacey-Dollard	Beechfield Farm	Organic Farming
Mary Magee	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Molloy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Murphy	Concerned Individual	I feel the minister for agriculture must act now, to prevent the spread of Fireblight.
Mary Murray	Concerned Individual	Ireland cannot afford to lose its existing and ancient hedgerows. Planting new hedgerows has to take second place to protecting what we have. Importing hedgerow species (Hawthorn) has to halt now. The government needs to step in and then support nurseries to produce stock for the future.

Mary O'Keeffe	Concerned Individual	I fully support this. Protect our Hawthorn with all its ecological benefits. It's an integral part of our culture and our environment. Surely we can grow our own without importing trouble.
Mary O'Brien	Concerned Individual	My interest is in protecting and preserving hedgerows. I fully support Hedgerows Ireland's Fireblight campaign.
Mary O'Connor	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Reynolds	We Are The Ark	We need you to step up and have some sense of morality. Nature has already collapsed here. There is another way.
Mary Rice	Concerned Individual	Please please, stop the importation of any plant species that are native to this country. This is the only way to stop or minimise the importation of diseases that could impact our native plants.
Mary Sherlock	Solas Glan, Community Garden	Please do not let our hedgerows get destroyed by importing this disease.
Mary Sinnott	Concerned Individual	I urge the Department of Agriculture to halt the importation of hedging plants due to concerns over the potential importation of further disease. It is also imperative that the Department reinstates the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirements for Hawthorn in ACRES hedgerow planting.
Mary Taylor	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Tierney	Concerned Individual	I don't want all of our hedgerows to be destroyed, or the impact that it will have on our wildlife. Stop importing Hawthorn from abroad. Protect our hedgerows and wildlife.
Mary Tubridy	Concerned Individual	If Fireblight affects Hawthorn we can say goodbye to our hedgerows
Mary Walsh	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native hedgerows
Mary Walsh	Concerned Individual	Imperative we protect our native hedgerows. That government policy assists us to do so.

Mary Walsh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mary Anne Downey	NIHBS	To support the stopping of dodgy imports. To help our native flora and bees to survive.
Mary C Scannell	Scannell Spiers Sustainability Ltd	Why would you risk our entire native Hawthorn hedgerows by importing specimens from the UK and completely disregard our Island status of not having this disease? This is absolutely crazy. I understand that the drive to encourage and support farmers to plant native hedgerow was a great one but please please limit this to the availability of Irish seedlings. Don't make what was a good decision into a complete disaster.
Matt Jarvis	Concerned Individual	Please stop the import whitethorn and save our hedgerows
Matt Nolan	Concerned Individual	To protect all native species not currently affected by the disease. Preventative maintenance
Matthew Berrill	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is a bacterial disease that may result in the removal of Ireland's emblematic Hawthorn hedgerows if allowed to spread. Its other common host trees include apple, pear, rowan, and Cotoneaster. Symptoms include the withering of shoots and leaves ('Shepherd's Stick'), cankers, and bacterial ooze. There are no treatments for Fireblight.
Matthew Coghlan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Matthew Phelan	NARGC	Keep our Irish hedges IRISH
Maud Hand	Self sufficient gardener	Please stop needlessly destroying our native trees by importing infected ones.
Maura McHale	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Maura Ryan	Concerned Individual	Two species of trees have been destroyed in my lifetime. Hawthorn is essential to the hedgerows of Ireland. In the 1970s, the Department of Agriculture encouraged farmers to pull out ancient hedgerows to make more land. Now in order to replace the destroyed hedgerows they are destroying existing hedgerows. The Department of Agriculture is destroying biodiversity in Ireland.
Maura Ryan	Concerned Individual	Because I am very concerned about our native trees and hedgerows being infected and ruined forever. This will not only affect the trees and hedgerows but all the living creatures that depend on them for survival. We must prevent this at once.
Maureen Toomey	Concerned Individual	We need our hedgerows for biodiversity and to cut down on flooding...
Max Van der Lee	Concerned Individual	To prevent a similar Ash dieback situation, save our hedgerow habitats, save our money and time we must act now and reinstate the requirement for the ACRES scheme Hawthorn to have Irish origin. otherwise thousands of km will be planted in vain, leaving farmers once again mismanaged by government schemes.
May Heeran	Concerned Individual	We can grow our own - disease free - stop all imports urgently.
Mayte Gonzalez	Concerned Individual	To protect Irish native nature
Meabh Boylan	Concerned Individual	Urgent action required
Meadhbh Cooke	Concerned Individual	It is shameful that we could let this be a threat to our beautiful trees. Please take action now!
Megan Earls	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Megan Gimber	PTES	This is one of the Key reasons we should increase domestic nursery capacity rather than import more whips to cope with increased hedgerow tree demand.
Meghan Carroll	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Mella O'Brolchain	Leitrim Environmental Network	We need to protect our hedgerows and the ecosystems they are part of. Ash dieback was because of not using the precautionary principle. Please do not make that same mistake again.
Miceal Breen	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Michael Barrett	SKBKA	We have already made this mistake of importing non native trees , and Ash dieback is the result, meaning that we have possibly less than two decades for our own native Ash tree. Why are we making the exact same mistake again of importing more non native trees ? Now the next danger is Fireblight! Why ?????
Michael Curtin	Concerned Individual	The necessary proactive action needs to be taken to prevent the spread of this Fireblight bacterial disease to stop it damaging our vital hedgerows.
Michael Finn	Concerned Individual	We must protect our native trees. Stop importing plants.
Michael Greene	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Michael Keaveney	Farmer	If Fireblight was to spread around the country it would have a devastating effect on our hedgerows. I would be affected greatly as most of my field boundaries are made up of hedgerows containing mostly whitethorn trees .
Michael Keyes	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Michael Murphy	Concerned Individual	We need to minimise the risk of introducing any further plant diseases into Ireland. The impact of Fireblight on our remaining hedgerows would be devastating. Native Irish Hawthorns only!
Michael O'Brien	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Michael O'Dowd	Irish Farmers Association	Stop All imported trees and plants, especially whitethorn into Ireland, we cannot afford another disaster like Ash Dieback . This policy is Insane and our Government is responsible for allowing all our natural corridors to be decimated thereby reducing our chances of having a home for all our wildlife and natural environmental protectors.
Michael Parks	Concerned Individual	I am very concerned with the state of our biodiversity in Ireland, as our hedgerows are a major habitat for a host of flora and fauna. It is vital that they are protected for future generations.
Michael Phelan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Micheal De Roiste	Concerned Individual	Not to learn from previous mistakes is stupidity. Allowing disease carrying plant imports will kill our native stock. We say no no no to this.
Michele Castiaux	An Taisce (NGO)	I live in Co. Laois, which has many Hawthorn hedgerows. If Fireblight was to spread, the landscape would be drastically changed and this would result in a huge loss of ecosystems.
Michele Hallahan	Concerned Individual	We cannot afford to lose any more hedgerows. They are the last refuge for our diminishing bird population. Wake up to the reality of biodiversity loss!!!!
Michelle Gannon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Michelle Keary	Concerned Individual	Please take urgent action to curtail this blight. We cannot have the same disaster as with Ash Dieback. An immediate public information campaign across all media is a must.
Michelle McKenna	Concerned Individual	Please put laws in place to save our Native trees. Help educate people about their care .

Michelle McWilliams	Concerned Individual	As an island, we need to act fast. This can be prevented with forward thinking, planning & strict regulations like Australia. Only use native grown hedging, communicate with native hedge growing families, give them encouragement to grow more with the knowledge people will purchase and whitethorn not be imported. Don't let what has happened with Ash dieback happen .
Michelle Ní Mhaolmhuaidh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Michelle O'Brien	Concerned Individual	This is a serious issue please take notice.
Michelle Rogers	Concerned Individual	Our native hedgerows are vital to wildlife and are part of our heritage. Please ensure they're protected from Fireblight. Thank you.
Michelle Teehan	Hedge School Ireland	Our native trees need to be protected
Mick Twomey	Concerned Individual	It would be a shame if the Hawthorn tree should go the same way as the Ash tree and see more withered and dead trees dotted around our countryside and nothing left for future generations to enjoy as we have enjoyed these wonderful species.
Míde Ní Shúilleabháin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mike C	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mike Gormally	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Mike Mac Domhnaill	Great southern trail Limerick Greenway	This blight must be taken very seriously. We are already dealing with Ash dieback and if other native species are threatened the countryside will be denuded of biodiversity and appearance. Imports of plants must be strictly monitored
Mike Murphy	Concerned Individual	Whitethorn is a medicinal heritage tree with rituals surrounded by it for the 1000's of years

Mike Sweeney	Concerned Individual	Ireland's countryside has been badly damaged over hundreds of years. We must act now to save and restore what remains
Millie McLoughlin	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native trees
Mimi Crawford	Crawford's Farm Ltd	Protect native plants at all costs.
Miriam Mc Guill	Friends of the Earth Dundalk	Please stop Fireblight spreading in Ireland. There needs to be far more control on importing trees to Ireland.It would be terrible if we lost our Hawthorns,Rowans and other native trees.
Miriam Mooney	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing trees which risk the spread of Fireblight. Thanks
Miriam Sheerin	Concerned Individual	Whitethorn is such a precious part of our countryside that I can't imagine our landscape if we lose it. And losing it through inaction or turning a blind eye would be easy, please don't do the easy thing.
Mitch Corbett	Hometree Nursery	Together we can conserve and grow many native provenance trees for Ireland's hedgerows. Let's protect them whilst doing it
Mollie Miller	Concerned Individual	We need our hedgerows. We need to start using Irish grown only, no imported native trees.
Mona Muller	Concerned Individual	As a farming for nature Ambassador, ISSA seed grower and farming 130 acres of SPA land I am deeply concerned about the importation of Whitethorn quicks and the associated danger of introduction of Fireblight into our native hedgerows and orchards! A longer time frame of hedge plantings of the acres scheme would eliminate the supply pressure
Monica Boyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Monica Forsyth	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Monika McDonnell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Moya McGinley	Concerned Individual	This is a matter of great urgency! Please don't delay in taking action.
Ms Judy Friel	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Muireann Ni Sheanlaoich	Concerned Individual	Please save our crucial biodiversity!
Myles Mccarrick	Concerned Individual	Why import when local nurseries or programs supporting growers should be the priority.
Naomi Clarkin	Concerned Individual	As an island, Ireland can easily avoid the introduction of threats to our ecosystem, unless we, foolishly, "open the door" to them. Please don't be swayed by short-term gains in availability/ lower price at the risk of ecological disaster for our hedgerows, trees, insects, birds, etc, (including ourselves) who are reliant on them - everything is interconnected. Please be wise.
Naomi Dowds	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Naomi Mooney	Green Fridays	Please protect our Hedgerows. We support protecting our hedgerows from Fireblight.
Natalie Everitt	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
NatAsha Page-Wood	The Gentle Travel Guide	Support native provenance plants to prevent such diseases
Nathan Flaherty	Naas Biodiversity Group	We need to protect indigenous Biodiversity.
Neil Browne	Concerned Individual	Please take action now to ban imports of Hawthorn saplings and protect the hedges of Ireland. Do not delay. Prevent Hawthorn going the way of our Ash trees please!
Neil Kelly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nessa Darcy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nessa Taylor	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Niall Baitson	Concerned Individual	Native hedgerows should be planted with native plants grown here and not imported as a rule
Niall Casement	Concerned Individual	An easily preventable threat. Please let us learn from past mistakes that have decimated our populations of Ash, elm, horse chestnut and larch, and don't let Hawthorn join this list. Given the rising number of pathogen threats to our native trees, continuing to allow unrestricted (& unvetted) imports can only lead to further bad outcomes (& waste taxpayers' money)
Niall Fallon	Concerned Individual	Do not import trees. Do not import whitethorn. If we don't have it here then we can do without. We'll catch up in a couple of years
Niall Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niall Hanlon	Technological University of Dublin	No additional message.
Niall McDowell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niall Moynihan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niall Mulligan	Concerned Individual	We must do everything we can to protect our hedgerows
Niall O'Brien	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niall Sheil	Maynooth University	The protection of our hedges around the country is very important to me. Indeed, one could argue that hedges are part of our cultural heritage, and historically significant if we remember the stories of 'hedge schools. Primarily though, hedges are homes to vast sways of birds, animals, rodents, insects and biodiversity multipliers. So please treat them with respect, please.
Niamh Doyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niamh Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Niamh Fitzgibbon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niamh Graham	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niamh Graham	Environmental Science, University of Galway	No additional message.
Niamh Moriarty	Artist	Protect our hedgerows-- they are hubs of biodiversity-- birds, plants, insects and small mammals all rely on Hawthorn hedgerows for life. They are an essential part of our island's nature and culture.
Niamh O'Flynn	Hedgerows Ireland	Can we stop the importing of Hawthorn & other tree species as we are bringing in diseases that are affecting our native species & this has a knock on effect in your local & national biodiversity & fruit production. Can we encourage our nurseries to grow native trees for the agricultural & private sector?
Niamh ryder	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Niamh Swanson	Concerned Individual	As a beekeeper and organic smallholder Fireblight has devastating potential to destroy fruit crops, hedgerows, pollinators and wildlife. We have spent years regenerating our hedgerows for nature and Fireblight puts all that at risk.
Niamh Young	Concerned Individual	Please take actual meaningful action to address the importation of diseased stock before our beautiful Hawthorn is added to the list of native species that have been failed by inadequate controls
Niav McGillicuddy	Concerned Individual	Have we learned anything from the Ash dieback catastrophe? It is crucial that we act now to try and save our Hawthorn, apple, and Rowan trees.
Nic Cargin	Lost Studios	A frankly ridiculous idea.
Nick Larter	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter because it outlines appropriate measures to address this problem.

Nicola Dennehy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nicole Lanphier	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nicole O Kelly	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter as I do not want our native trees damaged. They are part of our heritage, our culture and they deserve to thrive. It would be a huge loss to us to lose so many trees to a disease that is being caused by importation.
Nicole O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nigel de Haas	Concerned Individual	I lost 5 mature Ash trees on the farm from dieback during 2023/24. It is essential to rescind the exemption that provides a pathway for repeating the mistakes of the past. I could not bear to lose my Hawthorn and Rowan hedges on the farm.
Nigel Oakes	Concerned Individual	Our natural species need protection from import borne diseases. There is no need to import Hawthorne which terminates and grows easily here. Imports from the UK across our borders need screening.
Nike Ruf	Baldoyle Wild Town	Loss of Wildlife and Biodiversity are one of the greatest threats to our future and thus the government needs to act quickly.
Nikki Carlos	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Nikki Clancy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Noel C	Concerned Individual	Stop import Hawthorn from outside of Ireland in fear of disease
Noel Coogan	Biodiversity Garden Hacketstown	If this disease takes hold our hedgerows are gone and so is our best biodiversity asset. Hedgerows in Ireland are our Amazon jungle. This is too serious to be messing with.
Noel Dunphy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Noel Fehin	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are one of the few natural highlights of this island. Providing countless species with food and shelter, and need to be protected urgently.
Noel Gavigan	Concerned Individual	I fully support planting more native species, but that must be done with native provenance stock and in a way that protects us from importing Fireblight. We have lost Ash as a species as a result of not having due care.
Noel Linehan	Concerned Individual	Please be aware importing non native species should be prohibited .we have ample numbers of hawes from our hedgerows here in Ireland. The Department should know better and learned a lesson from the situation of the Ash Dieback
Noel O'Connor	Kilcooly Farm	Currently have confirmed Fireblight on the farm and no contact from Dept about what's going to happen and when. 6+ months waiting now
Noelle Ameijenda	Concerned Individual	Hello, There should be no necessity to import tree saplings onto our island. We should be producing our own native trees. There needs to be more forward planning to prevent the importation of disease. Thank you.
Noirin Mulvihill	Concerned Individual	This needs to be tackled sooner rather than later. The time for action is now
Noreen Buttimer	Concerned Individual	In a biodiversity crisis every effort possible should be made to avoid further loss of nature.
Noreen Caughey	Concerned Individual	Please take action to prevent Fireblight from killing our Hawthorn trees. Thank you
Noreen Conroy	Concerned Individual	Stop importing trees and hedging plants which can easily be grown by our own fantastic nurseries here in Ireland. Look what is happening to our lovely Ash trees and now our oaks.
Noreen O Donovan	Concerned Individual	Why wouldn't I support this?
Norma O Neill	Concerned Individual	I hope this helps to support the cause.

Norman Ingram	Hedgerows Ireland	It is very important for our wildlife and biodiversity that we maintain as many native hedgerows as possible right across the country and with a little forward planning there would have been no need to import any hedging.
Nuala Canny	Concerned Individual	Yet again we have imported a disease which was preventable, when is this going to stop.
Nuala Crotty	Irish Wildlife Trust member	I fully agree with the contents of this letter. Please do not put our hedgerows at risk. It could have very serious consequences.
Nuala Isdell	Collinstown tidy towns	It is important to preserve our native hedgerows
Nuala Wall	Concerned Individual	Please stop throwing money at problems. Plan and implement solutions in a thoughtful and progressive way. Making rash decisions creates pinch points and doesn't help the problem you're trying to solve.
Oisin Stephens	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Oliver Kierse	Concerned Individual	We've already lost our elms, and are in the process of losing our Ash. Now it's going to be the Hawthorn and related species. DAFM and their predecessors have been utterly ineffectual in putting any worthwhile protections in place, particularly around nursery plant imports.
Olivia Carrington	Concerned Individual	Please protect our trees
Ondine Roche	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Oonagh Barrett	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Orla Breslin	Concerned Individual	We're losing enough trees as is, to import preventable diseases is a disgrace!!
Orla Daly	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Orla O'Flanagan	Concerned Individual	One of my favorite times of the year. The Hawthorn blossom.

Orla van der Noll	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Orlagh Walsh	Danú Forest Bathing	No additional message.
Owen Donnelly	Concerned Individual	Not enough public information or engagement about this devastating issue. Ash dieback all over again. Why are controls to stop this not properly implemented? Do your job or create a department that can.
Owen Elliott	Concerned Individual	There are two many reasons to list why we need to stop the spread of this disease.
P Farrell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paddy Quinn	Concerned Individual	We must stop importing trees to protect the trees that grow in Ireland. We must not repeat the Ash Dieback disaster.
Padraig Breen	NARGC	No additional message.
Padraig Stevens	Creative Places Tuam.	The Hawthorn is so important in Irish life, as a living bush of course, but also in the heritage and folklore of our people.
Pamela Flynn	Concerned Individual	We need to preserve Irish trees
Pamela Walsh	Concerned Individual	Stop importing trees and hedges .
Pat Doocey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Pat Dunning	Concerned Individual	Save our native biodiversity
Pat Harrold	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Pat McDonald	Ballagh Gun Club	I would not like to see the native hedgerows destroyed.
Pat Rooney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Pat Sweeney	Ballina Beekeeping Association	No additional message.

Patricia Barr	Concerned Individual	We depend on our hedgerows to support biodiversity and it would be a serious blow to our cultural heritage to lose Hawthorn as well as Ash. Fireblight prevention is crucial.
Patricia Byrne	Concerned Individual	We need to value our native species
Patricia Cosgrove	Concerned Individual	This disease will destroy our hedgerows. It will destroy the food source and shelter of many animals and insects. We do not need another disease brought in due to lack of controls.
Patricia Forster	Concerned Individual	Have we not learned our lessons from the devastating problems other imports have caused. These plants are native and easily grown from our own stock. If demand can't be met, there should be incentives for Irish nurseries to increase production.
Patricia Mahon	Concerned Individual	Action must be taken when the evidence is so compelling.
Patricia Moran	Concerned Individual	Please help protect Ireland's hedgerows. They're already decimated enough by local councils overcutting them, even during bird nesting season
Patricia Moran	Concerned Individual	We need to protect our hedgerows before the disease wipes them out. Please act now, before it's too late.
Patricia O'Flaherty	Tracton Biodiversity group	Hedgerows are the lifeblood of Ireland's wildlife. Ban the import of Hawthorns and other plants so that we only use native species produced in Ireland to protect the land and its inhabitants.
Patricia O'Neill	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native ecosystem. It's the only one we have. Thank you.
Patricia Raffelt	Concerned Individual	Save the native and sacred Hawthorn trees for our future generations in Ireland. Thank you.
Patricia Sharkey	Gweebarra Conservation Group	To import trees after the disastrous decimation of Ash trees in Ireland due to importing diseased trees is folly and should not be allowed.

Patricia Tyrrell	Concerned Individual	Please ban imports of Hawthorn. One of our most important hedgerow trees. We have already lost elm and Ash and cannot afford to lose anymore through reckless importation whose sole purpose is to tick boxes for hedgerow restoration on farms.
Patricia Voon	Sallins Biodiversity Group	We support more strict regulations on the importation of plants in Ireland and a push towards prioritising native species.
Patrick Amerlynck	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Patrick Bradley	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are natural places where animals, birds, plants and insects thrive. They need our protection.
Patrick Brennan	Concerned Individual	The Minister for Agriculture needs to stop the importation of foreign Hawthorn plants brought about by the large demand following the introduction of the Acres scheme. As usual these schemes are hit with unrealistic deadlines and carried out over too short a timeframe. Lessons need to be learned from Ash dieback disease.
Patrick Donohoe	Landowner Ireland	There is zero control on our borders. We need to protect our native habitat.
Patrick Earls	Irish Doctors for the Environment	The Hawthorn is one our most iconic natural treasures, clinging to our traumatized landscapes, signalling hope.
Patrick Finn	NARGC	It does not make sense to be destroying hedgerows or gorse as these are very valuable to the wildlife and all nesting birds
Patrick Finnegan	Beekeeper	No additional message.
Patrick Flahive	Concerned Individual	It is unthinkable that this iconic tree and hedgerow plant could be in danger of widespread destruction and I expect those in the Dept of Agriculture who work on our behalf to act accordingly and with due haste.
Patrick Grennan	Land owner & Farmer & tree planter	Please help protect our hedges from non essential importation of diseases

Patrick Kirwan	Irish schools sustainability network	We are the scum of Europe when it comes to nature! Let's change this! Our future depends on it.
Patrick Maher	Ardmayle Heritage Society	Dear minister Fireblight if brought in with infected plants would devastate the Hawthorn hedges and would put the health of thousands of kilometres of hedges at risk
Patsy Daly	Arigna Community Development Company	DAFM is again showing its incompetency when it comes to protecting the environment.
Patsy Preston	Visual Artist	Please protect our ecosystem by stopping the imports of plants that may carry disease. Our Hawthorn hedges and trees along with Apple and Rowan are such crucial parts of our landscape, beautiful heritage trees, they must be protected. Only native trees should be used in any planting initiatives.
Paul Cadden	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native hedges and fauna.
Paul Campbell	Newgrange Honey	Irish hedgerows are essential as a food source for native insects and animals and to maintain established boundaries
Paul Carberry	Save Wicklow's Ancient East	A Hawthorn tree can live for up to 400 years-who in DAFM considers the long term effects of the hasty decision to import potentially fatal tree diseases. The Ash the Elm and Oak are already damaged and endangered by DAFM's reckless disregard for our native tree species.
Paul Cloonan	NARGC	No additional message.
Paul Colville	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul Connolly	Concerned Individual	Please halt the use of imported plants and trees to protect our native hedgerows. Native plants of Irish origin should be used in all public sector tenders
Paul Connon	Concerned Individual	After importing Ash dieback from Europe we have had a devastating eco disaster. We need to learn from that lesson. Stop it now.

Paul Cummings	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul Donohue	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul Donohue	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul Dwyer	Concerned Individual	Need to help our Irish countryside
Paul Fairbrass	Concerned Individual	I am in support of this, because it seems the alleged people who have been put into a position to look after the country aren't. They are only interested in themselves and how they look to their European pals. Diseases like this can devastate the countryside and the ecosystems around it.
Paul Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	We are in a biodiversity emergency caused by habitat loss and risky agricultural practices. We have added to that with Ash die-back. Further blight would be the final nail in our hedgerow decimation. Please take the requisite action.
Paul Flynn	Concerned Individual	Please don't risk this disaster. Humanity is doing enough and too much damage already
Paul Galvin	Concerned Individual	It is truly shocking to me that no lessons were learned from Ash Dieback's introduction to Ireland. Ireland's biodiversity needs to be taken seriously and not just looked at from an economic perspective. As an island we are well placed to protect ourselves if the necessary controls are put in place
Paul Kavanagh	Concerned Individual	Stop a repeat of the Ash dieback disease
paul larkin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul Manning MSc	Concerned Individual	In the face of such a threat, it is ludicrous to allow the importation of potentially contaminated Hawthorn. This needs to be addressed urgently!

Paul Murphy	EirEco Environmental Consultants	The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine needs to immediately cease the importation of Hawthorn and to put in place a proper management plan to control the spread of Fireblight.
Paul Murphy	Carberry beekeepers association	Stop imports of bees and trees which are destroying our native environment
Paul O Brien	Concerned Individual	Don't let this be another Dutch elm disaster
Paul O Connor	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Paul O'Brien	Hedgerows Ireland	Please take example of Australia in guarding against fruit fly in how we protect our natural environment here which is already under serious pressures without the introduction of this disease.
Paul Rosney	Ferbane Game Club	Native hedgerows are essential to habitat and the Irish ecosystem. They need proper protection now.
Paul Rumgay	Concerned Individual	Sorry! It's bleedin obvious.
Paul Tanner	Concerned Individual	Lets not have a repeat of the Ash Dieback debacle
Paula Halpin	Ashford Beekeeping	Please stop the importation of non native Hawthorn trees into Ireland, and also prevent the importation of non native bees into Ireland.
Paula Pender	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Pauline Cleary	Concerned Individual	I am very concerned about the importation of hawthorn hedging and the serious consequences for our biodiversity
Pauline Cudmore	Concerned Individual	Fireblight has a devastating impact on all the small animals and especially birds as their habitat gets wiped out and cannot be adequately replaced for years.
Pauline O Grady	Concerned Individual	Because it needs to be out there and sorted

Pavel Smirnov	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Peadar Lafferty	Concerned Individual	As we plant more, we have to keep the mature hedging and trees we have or we'll get backwards
Pearse McBride	Concerned Individual	Please learn from the mistakes of the past regarding Ash.
Peter Byrne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Peter Harbourne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Peter Mason	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Peter Munro	Concerned Individual	Left unchecked, Fireblight could decimate the Hawthorn hedgerows that are a vital refuge for wildlife and an iconic part of Ireland's landscape. The Department of Agriculture needs to act.
Peter O'Rourke	Concerned Individual	This is a very real issue and would make our small bird population massively vulnerable due to unavailability of a very protective nesting medium.
Peter O'Carroll	Concerned Individual	Please take action on Fireblight, thank you.
Peter O'Connor	Concerned Individual	The Hawthorn is fundamental to the Irish hedgerow, indeed to the very essence of the Irish landscape. It must be protected.
Peter Wright	Concerned Individual	Don't import risky trees
Phelim Molloy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Phil Kearney	An Taisce	No additional message.
Phil O'Callaghan	Portmarnock Tidy Towns	No additional message.
Philip Elliott	Concerned Individual	Don't be pence wise we need our country protected from short sightedness

Philip Hayden	An Óige Environmental Conservation Group	Hawthorn is a vital species to Ireland's hedgerows and the actions called for in this letter to prevent Fire Blight devastating must be taken. them
Philip Lynch	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Philip O'Connell	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is a very serious threat that must be taken seriously. We've seen how Ash dieback disease has wiped out trees across the country. Don't let our hedgerows be the next victim. Stop all imports of non native plants, we need far stricter bio security.
Philip Stack	Concerned Individual	If this disease isn't halted, it will kill and result in the removal of a large proportion of our hedgerows. These are unlikely to be replaced, accelerating the current trend of hedgerow loss and decimating the habitat available to wildlife in large areas of the country.
Philomena Hayes	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing any type of tree..... subsidies should be given to grow these here in Ireland Lots of potential to do so
Phyllis Griffith	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
R Graham	Concerned Individual	like any invasive species, once introduced that's that. There is no going back, regardless. Changing our native green lands etc is not acceptable under any guise or form. We strongly object.
Rachel Nolan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Raimo Kangasniemi	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ramona Fortune	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Randal McGuckin	Concerned Individual	Our countryside is important and we must protect it especially from invasives - be they diseases , flora or fauna. On the continent, there are not the same number of hedgerows as Ireland and the countryside is so poor because of it. Keep it and other invasives out!

Ravit Yanay	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Rebecca Naughton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Rebecca O'Sullivan	QUB	No additional message.
Rebecca Payling	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Regan Hutchins	Concerned Individual	To protect our native Hawthorn and rowan trees, among others, I've signed this open letter.
Regina O'Dea	Concerned Individual	We need to protect all our trees.As it is many of our trees are stressed.We have widespread Ash dieback which has decimated our Ash trees.Many other trees look to be struggling especially the hazel ,lots of it has rotted.We cannot afford to lose more trees
Rhiannon C	Co. Galway	Tá tabhacht ollmhor ag baint le nádúr an tír seo agus i mo thuaraimse ba cheart go mbeidh caomhnú i bhfad níos fad a dhéanamh uirthi.
Richard Creagh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Richard Cronin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Richard Doran-Sherlock	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Richard Jacob	StyleBarn	Please stop importing Hawthorn. The Ash dieback catastrophe is wiping our woodlands, we do NOT need to wipe out our hedgerows too. Thank you.
Richard Markham	Tree And Hedge Care	We need to protect all native species at all costs.
Richard O'Brien	IFA	Why put our native hedgerows at risk by importing plants instead of staggering the planting requirements over the 5 year acres scheme

Richard O'Donovan	Hawthorn tree owner, planter	Do what can be done, based on the evidence
Richard Ryan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Richard Sheil	Farmer	We shouldnt import anything into the country that is related to any native plants or species that would threaten their survival unless absolutely necessary and especially not from high risk areas, and there are no good reasons to import Hawthorn, we should use our island to our advantage, and I include the north, keep out what we can't control.
Richie Dodd	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Riona Sayers	Farmer	I have planted over 6000 Irish Hawthorns on my farm since 2005. I have always ensured that any trees I plant on my farm are of Irish origin as DID DAFM. Can we not learn from the many mistakes of the past that importation of both plants and livestock into Ireland poses a risk to our native species.
Rita Berz	Forest United forest School	Hedgerows are under massive threat in Ireland . Loss of habitat and climate change is happening now. We have to act fast. Thanks for your work.
Rita O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	It is vital that we protect our native trees and plants and importing plants from the EU could greatly increase the spread of Fireblight and other diseases. The highest level of vigilance is required by the minister for Agriculture.
Rita Sexton	Concerned Individual	I'm hopeful proper action will be taken before we pass the stage with no return. Save our trees!
Rob Durie	Concerned Individual	Importation of hedges, trees and other plants has devastated our landscape. Poor importation control is to blame. It also reduces the survival of indigenous nurseries.
Rob Heffernan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Rob Nesbit	NIEA	Hawthorn is our national hedgerow treasure. Spread of Fire Blight needs to be stopped.
Robert Cassidy	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Robert Duff	Concerned Individual	Please immediately stop any importation of Hawthorn You have failed it in Ash. And the effects can be seen daily on our hedgerows So get your house in order and ban the importation of any plant that could have Fireblight
Robert Fell	Concerned Individual	The Hawthorn is a symbol of the Irish countryside and to put it at risk like this is completely irresponsible. The providence of trees and shrubs used in any farm scheme or similar project should absolutely be an important factor in eligibility for the scheme. Elm and Ash are two reasons we should know better than this.
Robert Grandon	Concerned Individual	We seem to be unable to prevent and protect from imported plant diseases. Our record in this regard is truly awful. We are losing our Ash trees to Dieback. We must protect our equally important Hawthorns by insisting on native provenance when it comes to planting native hedgerows.
Robert Hogg	Hedgerows Ireland	Don't import any trees or hedging and protect our native Hedgerows. The department needs to wake up and stop adding fuel to the fire!!!!
Robert Parker	Concerned Individual	Is our Legacy from ACRES going to be having Miles of Gaps in our Hedgerows?? Turning our beautiful countryside into a burning hell as we (the landowners) try desperately to control the spread of blight. We have enough problems in our history with a blight, let's not add another chapter.
Robert Pearson	Concerned Individual	Can you please stop the importation of trees and plants that are a risk to our native trees and shrubs.
Robert Stapleton	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
roisin barron	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Róisín Towe	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ron Beemster	Concerned Individual	We need faster response times from the Department of Agriculture when reporting on this disease, and a concerted effort to eradicate it.
Ronan Mac Giollapharaic	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ronan McManus	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Rory MacCanna	Concerned Individual	Because the cessation of importing plants that can easily be sourced here in Ireland is the only way to be sure we stop the disease. It is very clear the plant passports leave too much margin for error
Rory Maguire	Concerned Individual	Our native plants are so important to everything living on this Island. Please do everything possible to protect them. Kind regards, Rory Maguire
Rose Malone	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Rosemary Clancy	Concerned Individual	After the total wipe out of Ash trees in Ireland, I can't believe the stupidity of our current Government to endanger more native plants! This hairbrained scheme is not widely known, we need more open debate.
Rosemary Rooney	Concerned Individual	Please protect our Hawthorn - an iconic & beautiful native species which alone supports 150 types of insect, as well as providing vital corridors for wildlife. Please learn from the mistakes which resulted in the devastation of our Ash tree population and stop all imports of Hawthorn immediately .
Rosie Dignam	Concerned Individual	We can't lose more of our indigenous plants.
Rosie Farrell	Concerned Individual	We need to do all we can to protect these vital ecosystems now more than ever and to act quickly before irreversible damage is done.

Rosie Mason	Concerned Individual	I treasure the local, native flora. Please do all you can to protect it.
Rosin Byrne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Roslyn Nicholson	Concerned Individual	It would be helpful to raise the general public awareness of this pest so reports might determine where it is now spreading. Control measures on imported plants are vital.
Ross Buchanan	Inish Forestry	Preserve Ireland's island status and keep diseases out!
Ruairi Galavan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ruairi Shelley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ruth Browne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ruth C	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are precious and vital for all kinds of bugs, bees and wildlife. They should be protected without doubt. Simple screening and proper enforcement seems like the most basic form of protection necessary.
Ruth Minogue	Minogue and Associates	No additional message.
Ruth Murphy	The Irish Ramblers club	Please take heed of this letter. We don't want the fate of Ash to befall our Hawthorn or any other species.
Sabrina Kavanagh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sacha Brinkley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sadhbh Kurzawska	Concerned Individual	I support the banning of imported Hawthorn due to the risk of Fireblight.
Sadhbh O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sadhbh Quinn	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Sally Finn-Kelcey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Samantha Houston	Concerned Individual	Importing diseased Hawthorn could decimate our native plants and all of the insects and birds that rely on it for habitat, food and larval value.
Samantha Richardson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sandie O'Neill	Newbridge Tidy Towns	No additional message.
Sandra Egan	Private individual	No additional message.
Sandra Middleton	Concerned Individual	To keep our native trees safe..the attack on our native trees and black honey bees has to stop. stop the importing of foreign trees and bees.
Sandra Murphy	Concerned Individual	This Fireblight is a real danger to Ireland. Please do not import more problematic species into Ireland.
Santiago Rial	Gaelic Woodland Project	No additional message.
Saoirse Mchugh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sara Bourke	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are vital for biodiversity and for our sustainable futures. Please take all possible measures to preserve them
Sara Howlin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Carey	Irish Independent	I planted a Hawthorn hedge 20 years ago. It's outrageous the hedges have been put at risk by imported species. I also planted 200 Ash trees and they are nearly all dead now. Please act NOW.
Sarah Carroll	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Dixon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Jordan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Sarah Liddane	Concerned Individual	Our country is already suffering the effects of Ash dieback, it's a desperate shame to see other native species devastated by another imported disease.
Sarah Malone	Concerned Individual	Ash dieback waltzed through Ireland. Fireblight won't be as kind, it favours several species among our native and naturalised trees. Our country can't take another hit in this vein. Prevention is better than the cure.
Sarah Redpath	Concerned Individual	Crataegus is essential for any good herbalist. Literally at the heart of Irish heritage. Protect our flora.
Sarah Rice	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Rubalcava	Concerned Individual	We are witnessing the destruction of our hedgerows from bad management to the loss of Ash trees. Fireblight is here and with the huge demand for native hedgerow species we must stop importing potentially diseased saplings.
Sarah Tierney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah van der Mescht	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Walsh	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Williams	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sarah Zimmermann	Balbriggan Climate Club	Because our hedgerows will go the same way as Ash.
Sarah Jane Lane	Concerned Individual	I feel that the government is poorly managing environmental issues and biodiversity for far too long. Hedgerows are being decimated nationwide so I feel I want to lend my voice to this vital campaign.
Scott King	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Seamus Connolly	Crosslis Consultancy Services Ltd	No additional message.

Seamus O'Toole	Concerned Individual	Act now please Minister, cut out the bull and red tape and protect our hedgerows.
Sean Bromley	Farming forest food	No additional message.
Sean Byrne	Irish Hawthorn grower	As an Irish grower of Hawthorn plants in the north east. Can the government not promote the growing of Irish grown plants? In my area at one time, as many as twenty people in north Meath were growing Hawthorn back then. Unfortunately this is down to a handful of growers at the present time.
Sean Carroll	Concerned Individual	Crazy importing trees we can grow in Ireland, ruined the Ash when will it stop
Sean Enright	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sean Greif	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sean Maxwell	Concerned Individual	We need to preserve our native hedgerows.
Sean Mc Govern	Firearms united network Ireland	Thanks to Govt shortsightedness over the years, we have Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback, possibly monetary pine bark beetle in Co Clare, and now to finish it off, Fireblight. ALL could be avoided by stringent Dept of Agriculture checks of all imports of plants into Ireland. Or simply prohibiting imports unless they are certified as being disease and pest-free from the supply country growers.
Sean O'Connor	Green Party	Please try and help us preserve our hedgerows from Fireblight. Thank you.
Sean Redmond	South Dublin County Council	No additional message.
Sean Treacy	Loughrea gun club	We need our hedges for our wild birds, it's enough having the Ash dying.
Sean Windsor	Concerned Individual	Ditches and hedgerows are disappearing daily with irreversible damage being done to wildlife; protect our hedgerows!
Seán Brosnan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Seán Golden	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Seán Ó Domhnaill	Concerned Individual	We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to protect our trees. It is unforgivable that this has been allowed to continue when there are effective solutions available. It would be good to introduce a quality mark for Irish-grown trees and shrubs so that we know what we're buying from nurseries and garden centres.
Seanna O'Boyle-Irvine	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Séighean Ó Draoi	Concerned Individual	Ban importing all plants that can bring in disease. Fund new nurseries to grow from native seed.
Sekeeta Crowley	Sustainable Skibbereen, Biodiversity Baltimore	The import of trees increases the risk of imported disease as has been clearly demonstrated by the devastating results of the introduction of Ash dieback. The government needs to be forward looking and impose restrictions now rather than leaving it too late for our hedgerows. Protect what we have and what we need in the future. Stop the imports.
Selena Mckenzie	Organic Farmer IFA member	I want it on record that farmers and farm orgs wanted the hedgerow planting ACRES scheme to be run over the years of the scheme to allow indigenous nurseries the ability to supply our own to avoid importation of disease from Europe.
Seos McKinnon	Concerned Individual	It is important to preserve our native hedgerows
Shailagh Healy	Shailagh Healy Arboriculture	Urgent and direct action is required before Fireblight becomes widespread.
Shane Downer	Hedgerows Ireland	Ireland is playing with fire if we do not recognise, and respond to the problem of Fireblight. Like any contagious outbreak - we need to escalate attention on the issue, and we need to close off the routes of transmission through which Fireblight can enter Ireland. The government needs to own this challenge - and to act decisively.
Shane Fisher	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

shane k	Farmer	All that can be done must be. We cannot lose more native tree species. We don't have many.
Shane Kavanagh	Carlow beekeepers	How sad, when hedges were vibrant and plentiful, stood strong in silence, to be hacked and shredded to the ground. And now the final straw.... infect them. Making the same mistake twice is criminal. Trees gained their strength from being pushed by the wind. Get pushed, strengthen your roots and make the right decision.
Shane Ryan	Kill Tidy Towns	Save our hedgerows
Shannon Haubrich	Concerned Individual	I support this letter for the protection of the sacred trees and hedgerows of Ireland.
Sharon B	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sharon Bourke	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sharon Greene	Wild Irish Foragers	To protect our native hedgerows & prevent the use of imported plants. It is extremely important that plants of Irish origin are used
Sharon hickey	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sharon McCabe	Concerned Individual	Please don't allow Hawthorn to go the way of Ash.
Sharon Ní Neill	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sheila Donlon	Concerned Individual	The risk of Fireblight to our native hedges and associated birds requires immediate action. Our hedges cannot be allowed to go the way of our Ash trees
Sheila Kiernan	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are needed for all our biodiversity so we must protect them
sheila kilduff	Concerned Individual	Stop Fireblight.
Sheila Roche	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Shirley Hope-Sweeney	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Shona MacGillivray	Concerned Individual	We need to look after our habitat. We need to use native trees with provenance . Let's take the least risks we can to protect and enhance our hedgerows.
Simon Brown	Concerned Individual	Dept of Ag, immediate action common sense and responsibility required now to protect what we have, learn from Ash dieback debacle.
Simon Bursell	Hive Mind	No additional message.
Simon Haden	Concerned Individual	Please protect our native species. Don't let what happened with Ash trees happen again.
Sinead Conran	Concerned Individual	Stop importing non native trees.
Sinead Doran	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sinead Lynn	Concerned Individual	I live in the country side - Connemara - & Ash die back has destroyed the Ash trees around me. I have lots of native trees eg Hawthorn & Rowan in my hedgerows to support our wildlife eg hedgehogs. Please do everything you can to stop the spread of Fireblight.
Sinead Marshall	Concerned Individual	There's no need to import Hawthorn or any native saplings and with them foreign diseases, set up growing schemes teaching participants in all the green / agriculture / forestry schemes to show people how to propagate / grow their own saplings
Sinead Molony	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sinead Moran	Gleann Bui Farm	We have Hawthorn trees over 60 years old. We have thick hedgerows of them that come alive every year! Please don't let them be destroyed like the Ash tree.
Sinead Wall	Concerned Individual	Please help to eradicate Fireblight, our hedgerows are of utmost importance.

Sinéad Mortell	FIBKA	I support this open letter as we the public need to protect our native trees and hedgerows which are already under severe pressure from removal and poor maintenance.
Siobhan Galloway	Concerned Individual	The continuing destruction of mature trees and the natural environment in Ireland is disturbing. Bad policy decisions and lack of implementation of protections that do exist for native trees and ecosystems is rife.
Siobhan Hackett	Concerned Individual	I'd like to see native plants being prioritised for many reasons - this is a good example of one.
Siobhan Harding	Concerned Individual	Ireland needs to do more to protect our wildlife.
Siobhan Jordan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Siobhan Norton	Concerned Individual	It's against the entire point! We're trying to encourage support of our native ecosystems, not tick a box and put our native plants at risk! No excuse for importing plants that can be cultivated easily here. Impatience is no excuse.
Siobhán Fleming	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Siobhán McNamara	Bloomin' Crumlin	Please take action to prevent further damage to our hedgerows from Fireblight.
Siofra Sealy	ROD	We already have an enormous loss of habitat to support wildlife and protected species in this country, we have to do everything we can to protect the remnant natural habitats we have left.
Sophie Dr Cacciaguidi-Fahy	Concerned Individual	We built our home in a natural copse and kept the original Ash trees and whitethorns. We have lost over 16 trees in the last 3 years. I would be devastated to lose centenary whitethorns. It is time some sort of regulations are put in place for entry to Ireland to preserve its natural heritage
Sophie Hayley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sophie Smyth	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Sorcha Conway	Kerry Group	Please stop importing non native species. Protect the natural beauty and ecosystem of Ireland.
Stan Ronan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stela Roibas	Concerned Individual	Hawthorn is too important to lose, so we need help to take care of it.
Stella Xenopoulou	The Woodland League	No additional message.
Stephanie Cloonan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephanie Cunningham	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephanie Gahan	Concerned Individual	Dear Ministers, I call on you to please help in the keeping of Ireland free of hedgerow disease. Please stop the importation of hedge trees and shrubs. Sincerely, Stephanie Gahan
Stephen Holland	Concerned Individual	Our Ash trees are devastated, box blight impacted many hedges in formal gardens in 2023. Imagine the impact on nature of a widespread blight in our Hawthorn hedgerows which are so prolific and integral to the landscape.
Stephen Johnston	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephen Maguire	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephen Padden	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephen Porter	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Stephen Ryan	Green Woodwork Ireland	Our woodlands and hedgerows support our native wildlife and should be protected.
Stephen W	Hedgerows Ireland	It is imperative that we protect our isolated ecology from infectious and invasive organisms, and promote a local, and ecologically sustainable economy of native plants and local provenance as we face the future of a destabilised environment which can only benefit from improved biosecurity

Steve Bass	Hedgerows Ireland	To create awareness and help prevent the spread of the disease
Steve Scilley	The Rusheyhill Hill Project	Since 2009, I have planted almost 1km of double hedge and seen a massive increase in wildlife as a result. We need to stop Fireblight dead. I'm too old and tired to start all over again.
Steve Symes	Concerned Individual	Our biodiversity must be protected.
Stuart McCaul	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Sue Anthony	Artisan Beekeeping Collective	The destruction of our Hedgerows by farm, forestry, companies, individuals and disease has to stop, it is not plantations that sequester carbon, or protect diversity it is hedgerows. Stop their destruction now.
Susan Brady	Concerned Individual	I want to support healthy hedgerows and encourage conservation.
Susan Flynn	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Susan McGovern	Concerned Individual	Upsetting to see so many hedgerows cut down to make way for garden fencing beside our holiday home in Fethard on Sea, Wexford.
Susan Powell	Wild about miltown Malbay biodiversity group	Hedgerows support so much wildlife, it's important to keep planting native.
Susanna Kalbermatten	Concerned Individual	The importation of trees from countries affected by the Fireblight disease must stop. The import of Ash trees was continued knowing the trees were imported from countries affected. All Ash trees on my land are dead or dying. Many beeing massive trees. It sickens me every day.
Suzanne Bedell	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Suzanne Brindley	Roscommon Environmental Network	No additional message.

Suzanne Murphy	Naas Biodiversity Group	This an urgent matter that could become catastrophic for Ireland's hedgerows if not actioned as soon as possible.
Suzanne Quirke	Concerned Individual	I support this letter fully, because it seeks to protect our native hedgerow species.
Suzanne Rogers	Concerned Individual	We have seen what has happened through Ash dieback. We need to protect our other tree species and keep them native. We risk losing too much through Fire Blight.
Suzanne Young	Concerned Individual	Our hedgerows are of vital importance for many reasons and we need to protect them from the spread of disease as we should with any organism. Unless imported plants can be tested and verified as being clear of disease they should not be imported into the country. We do this with animals all the time.
Suzie Miller	Concerned Individual	Hedgerows are a vital part of the ecological cycle within Ireland. They should be protected at all costs and I believe the measures proposed will achieve this.
Sylvia Maher	Concerned Individual	I support this letter as hedgerows are incredibly important pillars of biodiversity here in Ireland and it is crucial that they are protected from Fireblight and other problems. The spread of the disease also negatively impacts other host trees not in hedgerows such as apples, pears and rowan which are important food stuffs for both people and wildlife.
Sylvia Matthews	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tadhg Maw	Concerned Individual	Whitethorn is an incredibly important plant for our biodiversity and heritage. I am very worried that this disease could have the same severity of implications as Ash dieback and Dutch elm disease. I am also an avid apple grower which could be seriously affected also. We need to stop importing saplings and subsequent disease!
Tadhg Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Tadhg Fitzpatrick	Concerned Individual	As a farmer who has spent the last 10 years replanting hedges that were removed in the past on the farm and dealing with Ash dieback the last thing I need is the Hawthorn getting the same treatment
Tadhg Gleeson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tahirih O Brien	Concerned Individual	Our country's land has been devastated repeatedly since we were colonized, we have had the power to act for many decades and still our ecosystems and biodiversity suffer. This can and should be prevented from becoming worse to a point of no return.
Tania Martin	Concerned Individual	Wouldn't it be great if the Irish government gave support to businesses to grow our own Hawthorn? It seems ridiculous to import them which increases the chances of spreading disease.
Tanya Moeller	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tara Conlon	Concerned Individual	Fireblight is a threat to hedgerows which are vital habitat. It is reckless to risk importing it.
Tara Kelly	Concerned Individual	What remains of our biodiversity MUST be protected.
Tara Lawlor	Concerned Individual	Our beautiful native hedgerows are really worth protecting. If Hawthorn is decimated by Fireblight, we will be left with massive gaps in our hedgerows, creating fragmentation, reducing unique habitats & food for insects & birds. May would never be the same again without the creamy white flowers in perfect coordination with cow parsley. Something I look forward to every year.
Tara Lyons	Concerned Individual	I support this open letter to prevent the further destruction of hedgerows and increased environmental damage if Fireblight spreads
Tara Baoth Mooney	Leitrim Hawthorn Project	It is an urgent matter. The hedgerows are in danger of being obliterated by Fireblight. The fruit trees the Hawthorn trees and the rose trees. All under threat

Teresa Barry	Barrys Nurseries	Why are we allowing the sale of Crataegus plant imports which we know are likely to be contaminated by Fireblight. Is this to be the legacy of the present government - the destruction of our native hedgerows caused by disastrous decisions by the DAFM. While this horse has bolted can we at least close the stable door.
Teresa Donegan	Concerned Individual	I believe we have a duty to look after our natural hedgerows and absolutely should not be importing stocks we know nothing about. We have plenty of our own as it happens and more should be done to encourage everyone not to destroy what is already there but look after and maintain our stocks here.
Teresa Mc Veigh	Concerned Individual	Stop importing foreign trees, shrubs and plants into the island of Ireland.
Teresa Purtill	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Terri Conroy	Concerned Individual	Please stop importing diseased trees when we can produce our own. We already know what happened to our Ash trees because the "economic" factors won out over common sense. The economy is not a living thing, our hedgerows are. Our hedgerows are vital in maintaining biodiversity and our heritage
Terri Nagib	Middle Way Wellness	Hedgerows are a vital part of our environment, ecosystem and essential for the continuation of wildlife, flora and fauna all across the country. With so much of the rest of our environment being destroyed, this is a simple and effective way to play a huge role towards ensuring the survival of our beautiful countryside
Terry Mc Cahey	Concerned Individual	Accredited specialists in this field are asking and begging me to sign it and pass the word on. These are people experts in their field trying to wake the blind politicians to what they are doing to Ireland's flora and fauna. Please listen to the experts, not the money trail.
Theresa G	Concerned Individual	Please take the necessary action. Our hedgerows are a living symbolism of our heritage. Thank you.

Therese Dunne	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Therese O'Reilly	Amdocs Ireland Green Team	Our biodiversity is in crisis. Hedgerows are an intricate part of the overall health of our biodiversity.
Therese O'Reilly	Concerned Individual	We have an ethical duty to meet biodiversity targets, and exceed them if possible. We need to stop the spread of Fireblight to maintain the paltry hedgerows that we currently have.
Therese Scanlon	Concerned Individual	This is not just a threat to one species. Biodiversity is the interaction between a wide range of flora and fauna, this is very simplified. At this stage we have an opportunity to control the spread of Fireblight. Don't miss this opportunity. What is DAFMs plan for managing this if it does take hold in Ireland. And at what cost?
Thérèse Scanlon	Wicklow Flowers	Completely unnecessary exposure to this in Ireland. Lack of regulation and follow through of health checks from DAFM. Knock on effect will be experienced by so many elements of our natural resources that we all depend on.
Thomas Blaney	Thomas Blaney	I would like to see the end of any imports of Hawthorn and other hedgerow plants into Ireland. Our nurseries need to start propagating Irish native plants.
Thomas Cusack	Oughterard Courthouse Conservation & Heritage Company	A timely and effective campaign will prevent the disease from getting out of control and prevent us incurring much greater costs of control at a later time.
Thomas Howley	Concerned Individual	Please stop import of Hawthorn saplings from other countries, also suspend flail cutting as it increases risk of spread immediately.
Thomas Joyce	Farmer	Ash dieback was already let into the country and we need some controls.
Thomas Quirke	Concerned Individual	Ash trees are dying due to terrible decisions in the past. Let's please not repeat past mistakes and destroy what is left of our biodiversity.
Thomas Reaney	Concerned Individual	Please, Minister. You must do whatever it takes to halt the spread of this.

Tiffany Dowson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tim Clabon	Irish Wildlife Trust	Hawthorn supports wildlife by providing shelter for nesting birds and food for many of our native and migrant species of bird. Mammals also feed and shelter on Hawthorn. The flowers support many pollinators early in the year, and also is the food plant of other insect species. It is vital for biodiversity. Its loss would be devastating.
Tim Fitzgerald	Concerned Individual	I have planted native hedges surrounding my property to encourage biodiversity. I would like to see prompt action taken on the problem to prevent spread.
Tim Long	Green Sod Ireland	No additional message.
Tim O'Brien	Thomond Beekeepers Association	No additional message.
TJ Leahy	Concerned Individual	To save our trees.
Toby Demeuldre	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tom Ashford	Global Livestock Ltd	No additional message.
Tom Geraghty	Concerned Individual	Because I care...and more people should. It's important we all are educated and learn about our responsibilities
Tom Johnson	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Tom Jordan	Macroom and District Environment Group	How did unqualified bureaucrats get the power to decide what plants are safe to import into Ireland? This was predictable and preventable. DAFM knew they'd be incentivising hedgerow planting but failed to notify nurseries. We must stop all imports now and place an embargo on already imported plants.
Tom Kesne	Concerned Individual	Stop playing genetic roulette with importations degrading genetics and bringing diseases into the country. Proper biosecurity now.

Tom Llewellyn	Concerned Individual	I request the Minister to restrict the importation of all hedgerow species that are associated with the spread of Fireblight and also to encourage and support native Irish nursery production.
Tom Lynch	Clare Birdwatch Ireland	Action needed urgently.
Tom Lyon	Concerned Individual	When the hedgerows are gone, they are gone. They need major protection.
Tom Peters	Concerned Individual	Biosecurity is of the utmost importance for protecting biodiversity. With climate change bringing warmer springs, in the case of Fireblight it is imperative that we make every effort to limit (preferably prevent) the importation of this disease into Ireland so we may control the spread of the bacteria which has already found its way to Ireland.
Tom Spencer	IrishEVs	No additional message.
Tom Tierney	Farmer	Don't let this into Ireland on your watch! Bad enough we have Ash dieback.
Tomas Doyle	Concerned Individual	Let's see some preventative action and foresight on this. Deal with this issue early, forcibly and effectively before it gets out of control like the Ash dieback
Tommy Brennan	Concerned Individual	It is essential to protect our native species, the loss of our hedgerows would be devastating. Banning the importation of non native Hawthorn would be an important first step
Tommy Hayes	Concerned Individual	More shortsighted policy decisions
Tony Daly	Limerick Beekeepers Association	No additional message.
Tony Lowes	Friends of the Irish Environment	The failure to heed your valuable warnings is unbearable and the consequences unthinkable.

Tony Miller	Concerned Individuals	Dear Minister, I would urge you to halt the importation of Hawthorn trees. It would take a while but it would be much better to encourage the home production of these trees for which there are easily gathered seeds. Fireblight would be disastrous for the country especially on top of Ash dieback, Yours Sincerely, Tony Miller
Tony O'Brien	Concerned Individual	I cannot understand why we are still importing trees and shrubs that are continually infecting our native trees. Why has there not been a ban put in place after Ash dieback was bought in from Poland. Will you take Fireblight in Ireland seriously and stop allowing imports of diseased trees and plants.
Treasa Keegan	Concerned Individual	It's about time this government stopped paying so much attention to big business and started looking after our natural heritage. Shame on them for making communities assert this over and over across the country.
Treasa Nealon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Trevor Halpin	Groundwork	No additional message.
Triona Healy	Healy Clinic	I have a woodland of Hawthorn and already have lost up to 30 trees with Ash dieback and don't want to see something similar happen to the Hawthorn.
Trish Farrell	Concerned Individual	Please, Minister and Department, don't let this opportunity pass! Act fast and don't delay! We've let this kind of hazard cause havoc too many times before!
Trish Gannon	Concerned Individual	Stopping the practice of importing diseased / disease carrying plants should be prioritised over destroying our native plants to deal with this disease. It's akin to using a sledge hammer to crack a nut. Please reconsider your strategy in this instance.
Trish Griffin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.

Turlough O'Donnell	Concerned Individual	Could we discuss the import of trees and shrubs into the island of Ireland in an adult but urgent way? Surely it should simply stop? Our oak, Ash, wild cherry, Hawthorn are all so precious to us? And the Market and its fetish of free movement vulgar in contrast. Not a respectable answer.
Ulick O'Sullivan	Concerned Individual	I want to stop the import of non native plants to Ireland, due to the possibility of them containing diseases.
Ultan Dillon	Concerned Individual	Please do our best to prevent the spread of this
Una Fannon	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Una Halpin	Concerned Individual	After the total disaster caused by Ash dieback, it is completely unacceptable that the Department of Agriculture is still continuing to allow the importation of trees. Our native hedgerows are under enough threat.
Una McGrath	Concerned Individual	Please support the request below.
Una Mollin	Concerned Individual	We need to protect native species and stop importing trees and plants that destroy them. It is grim to see all the dead Ash around the country, the once lush hedgerows are now full of bleak, dead trees. It is irresponsible, and completely avoidable.
Una O'Boyle	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Una Ruddock	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Úna Ní Chiosáin	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Ursula King	Concerned Individual	Afforestation goals should take into account effects on our native biodiversity. Aside from the huge risk of importing <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> with the importation of Hawthorn; importing native trees (inc. seed) flies in the face of protecting our genetically adapted indigenous species. Has DAFM not learnt from the two previous Ash debacles - Brown Bud Ash (see Coford) and Ash Dieback?
Val Payne	Kilcock SEC	No additional message.

Val Swan	Concerned Individual	Particularly after elm and Ash disease, the loss of Hawthorn would be devastating for the countryside and for the fauna and flora it supports.
Val Whelan	Common Ground Edible Bray	Please take action!
Valerie Murphy	Concerned Individual	Please act to prevent the spread of Fireblight by stopping the importation of trees/Hawthorn etc. We can't afford to lose the already dwindling hedgerows we have.
Valerie Seymour	Concerned Individual	Concern for existing hedgerows and future planting.
Valerie Vetter	Phibsboro Village Tidy Towns	Dear Minister, there needs to be urgent support for growing Hawthorn, Blackthorn and other native hedgerow and tree species in Ireland as clearly importing these plants brings massive risk from disease. The growing cycle is long so this support needs immediate interventions from the State. Please suspend imports and address the issues now. Yours sincerely, Valerie Vetter
Vanessa Mack	Rathangan Tidy Towns	No additional message.
Vicky Flanagan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Victor Brown	Concerned Individual	We need to keep our native species free from imported diseases
Vincent Kilduff	Concerned Individual	To prevent the spread of Hawthorn plant disease from imported plants.
Vinnie Monaghan	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Vittorio Cirefice	Artist	Same amount of hedgerows in Ireland as distance from the moon! Such an important heritage and buffer from overdevelopment and urbanisation of the countryside. One of our greatest sociological assets.
Will Warham	Farmer	No additional message.

William Gardiner	Concerned Individual	Our landscape will be decimated if our Hawthorn trees get Fireblight.
William Hutchinson	Concerned Individual	Dealing with Ash dieback has just been a nightmare, we need to learn from our mistakes and not repeat them.
Yosef Dvores	Concerned Individual	Everyone is aware of the devastation of the Ash dieback. We need to control this ASAP.
Yrama Wylie	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Yvonne Leonard	Concerned Individual	Imagination lives in the hedges. It is vital for mental health and regulation of the psyche. People are suffering solastalgia, and feeling helpless due to the lack of protection for nature's right to thrive.
Zita Flatley	Concerned Individual	No additional message.
Zoë Gough	Concerned Individual	Ireland's hedgerows are of crucial importance to our biodiversity and heritage, and should be protected at all costs.

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