



European Wireworm Research Network

PRESS RELEASE

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Newly established European Wireworm Research Network opens membership as crop damage escalates across Europe

Wireworm damage has intensified across European arable systems, with growers in both potatoes and cereals reporting higher losses and downgrading in recent years. While the pest was previously linked mainly with grassland in the rotation, high populations are now appearing even in long-term arable systems — a trend consistent with what is already seen in several other European countries.

The UK potato sector has suffered the most severe levels of damage for many years, and pressure is expected to keep rising without coordinated research and knowledge exchange. Elsewhere, the French potato sector, especially the seed sector has suffered significant economic losses during the past 5 years due to the resurgence of wireworms pests.

To support a faster and more joined-up response, the **European Wireworm Research Network (EWRN)** is now formally **inviting researchers and industry partners to join the network**.

EWRN is establishing **four technical working groups** to bring together expertise from across Europe with the aim to coordinate work to address the challenges posed by the widespread damage from wireworms.

These will focus on:

- improving pest monitoring and population assessment
- understanding agronomic and environmental risk factors
- developing effective control and IPM strategies
- anticipating future threats and knowledge gaps

The working groups will enable closer collaboration, data sharing and coordinated research effort across borders.

Who else can get involved?

This is open to researchers, growers, and other industry professionals from crop protection companies, breeders, agronomy services, processors and supply chain organisations. Closer engagement will help identify the scale of the issue in different crops and regions, and accelerate the transfer of practical solutions to growers.

“Wireworm is no longer a localised or background problem – it is a growing threat to arable rotations across Europe,” said **Martyn Cox**, spokesperson for the European Wireworm Research Network. *“By bringing researchers, agronomists and industry together, we can build the knowledge base we need and ensure practical tools reach farmers quickly.”*

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Momentum is building

EWRN's most recent online workshop attracted strong attendance and highly positive feedback, reflecting the scale of interest and urgency from both research and industry.

Join the network

Those interested in joining the European Wireworm Research Network or participating in a working group are invited to register their interest at <https://www.potato-wireworms.com/member-area> or send an email to potato.wireworms@gmail.com and contribute to a coordinated Europe-wide response to this emerging pest challenge.

About EWRN

The European Wireworm Research Network is a collaboration platform bringing together researchers, agronomists and industry stakeholders to accelerate understanding and management of wireworm across European cropping systems. Its aim is to improve knowledge-sharing, coordinate research priorities and support practical solutions for growers.