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SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Commodity risk assessment of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata*, *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *Lonicera periclymenum* plants from the UK

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The declarations of interest of all scientific experts active in EFSA's work are available at https://open.efsa.europa.eu/experts.

Abstract

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as 'High risk plants, plant products and other objects'. This Scientific Opinion covers plant health risks posed by (a) rooted plants in pots and (b) bare root plants and whips of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata*, *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *Lonicera periclymenum* from the United Kingdom (UK). The assessment was performed considering the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the UK. All pests potentially associated with the commodities were evaluated against specific criteria. Five EU-quarantine pests [honeysuckle yellow vein virus (HYVV, *Begomovirus macrotylomae*), *Bemisia tabaci*, *Meloidogyne fallax*, *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis*], present in the UK and which could be associated with the commodity, were considered relevant for this Opinion. No pests non-regulated in the EU were identified to be selected for further evaluation.

KEYWORDS

European Union, honeysuckle, *Lonicera* spp., pathway risk assessment, plant health, plant pest

CONTENTS

1 | INTRODUCTION

1.1 | Background and Terms of Reference as provided by European Commission

1.1.1 | Background

The new Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031,[1] on the protective measures against pests of plants, has been applied from 14 December 2019. Provisions within the above Regulation are in place for the listing of 'high risk plants, plant products and other objects' (Article 42) on the basis of a preliminary assessment, and to be followed by a commodity risk assessment. A list of 'high risk plants, plant products and other objects' has been published in Regulation (EU) 2018/2019.[2] Scientific Opinions are, therefore, needed to support the European Commission and the Member States (MSs) in the work connected to Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, as stipulated in the terms of reference.

1.1.2 | Terms of Reference

In view of the above and in accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002,[3] the Commission asks EFSA to provide Scientific Opinions in the field of plant health. In particular, EFSA is expected to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in the relevant Implementing Act as 'High risk plants, plant products and other objects'. Article 42, paragraphs 4 and 5, establishes that a risk assessment is needed as a follow-up to evaluate whether the commodities will remain prohibited, removed from the list and additional measures will be applied or removed from the list without any additional measures. This task is expected to be on-going, with a regular flow of dossiers being sent by the applicant required for the risk assessment.

Therefore, to facilitate the correct handling of the dossiers and the acquisition of the required data for the commodity risk assessment, a format for the submission of the required data for each dossier is needed.

Furthermore, a standard methodology for the performance of 'commodity risk assessment' based on the work already done by MSs and other international organisations needs to be set.

In view of the above and in accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the Commission asks EFSA to provide a Scientific Opinion in the field of plant health for *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *Pileata, Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *Lonicera periclymenum* from the United Kingdom (UK) taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical dossier provided by the UK.

1.2 | Interpretation of the Terms of Reference

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health (hereafter referred to as 'the Panel') was requested to conduct a commodity risk assessment of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* (Oliv.) Franch., *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* Franch. and *L. periclymenum* L. from the UK following the Guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high-risk plant dossiers (EFSA PLH Panel, 2019), taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the UK. In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Windsor Framework in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Framework, for the purposes of this Opinion, references to the UK do not include Northern Ireland.

The EU quarantine pests that are regulated as a group in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072[4] were considered and evaluated separately at the species level.

Annex II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 lists certain pests as non-European populations or isolates or species. These pests are considered regulated quarantine pests. Consequently, the respective European populations, or isolates, or species are non-regulated pests.

Annex VII of the same Regulation, in certain cases (e.g. point 32), makes reference to the following countries that are excluded from the obligation to comply with specific import requirements for those non-European populations, or isolates, or species: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following

[1]Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) 228/2013, (EU) 652/2014 and (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC. OJ L 317, 23.11.2016, pp. 4–104.

[2]Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 of 18 December 2018 establishing a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and a list of plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required for introduction into the Union, within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation C/2018/8877. OJ L 323, 19.12.2018, pp. 10–15

[3]Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, pp. 1–24.

[4]Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019, OJ L 319, 10.12.2019, p. 1–279.

parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (SeveroZapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug), San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and the UK (except Northern Ireland[5]). Those countries are historically linked to the reference to 'non-European countries' existing in the previous legal framework, Directive 2000/29/EC.

Consequently, for those countries,

(i) any pests identified, which are listed as non-European species in Annex II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 should be investigated;
(ii) any pest found in a European country that belongs to the same denomination as the pests listed as non-European populations or isolates in Annex II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 should be considered as European populations or isolates and should not be considered in the assessment of those countries.

Pests listed as 'regulated non-quarantine pest' (RNQP) in Annex IV of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, and deregulated pests (i.e. pests which were listed as quarantine pests in the Council Directive 2000/29/EC and were deregulated by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072) were not considered for further evaluation.

Any pests regulated both as RNQP and as a protected zone quarantine pest, or regulated as a protected zone quarantine pest, will be treated as EU quarantine pest in this Opinion.

In its evaluation, the Panel:

(i) checked whether the information in the technical dossier (hereafter referred to as 'the Dossier') provided by the UK was sufficient to conduct a commodity risk assessment. When necessary, additional information was requested from the applicant;
(ii) selected the relevant EU Regulated pests (excluding RNQP; and including pests regulated under Article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031) and other relevant non-regulated pests in the EU present in the UK and potentially associated with the commodity;
(iii) assessed the effectiveness of measures for non-regulated pests in the EU;
(iv) did not assess the effectiveness of measures for the following EU-regulated pests: (1) Union Quarantine Pests, (2) Protected Zone Quarantine Pests, (3) Emergency measures pests listed in (EU) 2022/1941.

Risk management decisions are not within EFSA's remit. Therefore, the Panel provided a rating based on expert judgement regarding the likelihood of pest freedom for each relevant pest given the risk mitigation measures implemented by the applicant.

The Plant Health Commodity Risk Assessment Opinions are prepared following the EFSA Standard Protocol for Commodity Risk Assessment (Gardi et al., 2025).

2 | DATA AND METHODOLOGIES

2.1 | Data provided by DEFRA

The Panel considered all the data and information provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the UK in October 2023, including the additional information provided on 19 August 2025, after EFSA's request. The dossier is managed by EFSA.

The structure and overview of the dossier is shown in Table 1. The number of the relevant section is indicated in the Opinion when referring to a specific part of the dossier.

TABLE 1 Structure and overview of the dossier.

Dossier section	Overview of contents	Filename
1	Technical dossiers	Lonicera ligustrina var. pileata commodity information.pdf
		Lonicera ligustrina var. yunnanensis commodity information.pdf
		Lonicera periclymenum commodity information.pdf
2	Pest list	Lonicera pest list_final.xlsx
3	Dissemination of *Lonicera* spp. in UK	Lonicera_pileata_distribution.pdf

[5]In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Windsor Framework in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Framework, for the purposes of this Opinion, references to the United Kingdom do not include Northern Ireland.

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Dossier section	Overview of contents	Filename
		Lonicera_nitida_distribution.pdf
		Lonicera_ periclymenum_distribution.pdf
4	List of plants produced in *Lonicera* nurseries	Lonicera_producers_sample_product_list.xlsx
5	Additional information: answers on pest status	Answer Annex 1 - pest status specific requests to UK Lonicera_ EFSAV2.xlsx

The data and supporting information provided by DEFRA of the UK formed the basis of the commodity risk assessment. Table 2 shows the main data sources used by DEFRA of the UK to compile the Dossier (details on literature searches can be found in the Dossier Section 1).

TABLE 2 Databases used in the literature searches by DEFRA of the UK.

Database	Platform/link
Aphids on World Plants	https://www.aphidsonworldsplants.info/
Beetles of Britain and Ireland	https://www.coleoptera.org.uk/
Biological Records Centre	https://www.brc.ac.uk/
British Bugs	https://www.britishbugs.org.uk/gallery.html
Butterflies and Moths of North America	https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/
CABI Crop Protection Compendium	https://www.cabi.org/cpc/
CABI Plantwise Knowledge Bank	https://www.plantwise.org/knowledgebank/
CABI Publishing	https://www.cabi.org/what-we-do/publishing/
Checklist of Aphids of Britain	https://influentialpoints.com/aphid/Checklist_of_aphids_in_Britain.htm
Encyclopedia of Life	https://eol.org/
EPPO Global Database	https://gd.eppo.int/
Fauna Europaea	https://www.gbif.org/dataset/90d9e8a6-0ce1-472d-b682-3451095dbc5a
Forest research	https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/
Fungi of Great Britain and Ireland	https://fungi.myspecies.info/
Global Biodiversity Information Facility	https://www.gbif.org/
Global Taxonomic Database of Gracillariidae (Lepidoptera)	https://www.gbif.org/dataset/98fb9418-8215-4575-abfb-07a30b81acfc
National Collection of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria (NCPPB)	https://ncppb.fera.co.uk/ncppbresult.cfm
Nature Spot	https://www.naturespot.org.uk/
Natural History Museum (NHM)	https://data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/hosts
NBN Atlas	https://species.nbnatlas.org/
NEMAPLEX	http://nemaplex.ucdavis.edu/
Plant Parasites of Europe – leafminers, galls and fungi	https://bladmineerders.nl/
Pyrenomycetes from southwestern France	http://pyrenomycetes.free.fr/
Scalenet	https://scalenet.info/
Spider Mites Web	https://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/spmweb/
The Sawflies (Symphyta) of Britain and Ireland	https://www.sawflies.org.uk/
Thrips-iD	https://www.thrips-id.com/en/
UK Beetles	https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/
UK Moths	https://ukmoths.org.uk/
UK Plant Health Information Portal	https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/

2.2 | Literature searches performed by EFSA

Literature searches in different databases were undertaken by EFSA to complete a list of pests potentially associated with *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum*. The following searches were combined: (i) a general search to identify pests reported on the *Lonicera* genus in the databases, (ii) a search to identify any EU quarantine pest reported on *Lonicera* as a genus and subsequently (iii) a tailored search to identify whether the above pests are present or not in the UK. The databases used for each of the above searches are specified in Table 3. The searches

were run between 30 January 2025 and 10 August 2025. No language, date or document type restrictions were applied in the search strategy.

The search strategy and search syntax were adapted to each of the databases listed in Table 3, according to the options and functionalities of the different databases and the CABI keyword thesaurus.

As for Web of Science, the literature search was performed using a specific, ad hoc established search string (Supporting information: Annex A). The string was run in 'All Databases' with no range limits for time or language filters. The methodology is further explained in Section 2.3.2.

TABLE 3 Databases used by EFSA for the compilation of the pest list associated with *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*, *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum*.

Database	Platform/link	Database use
Aphids on World Plants	https://www.aphidsonworldsplants.info/C_HOSTS_AAIntro.htm	Host plant records
BIOTA of New Zealand	https://biotanz.landcareresearch.co.nz/	Host plant records
CABI Crop Protection Compendium	https://www.cabi.org/cpc/	Pest distribution and host plant records
Database of Insects and their Food Plants	https://www.brc.ac.uk/dbif/hosts.aspx	Host plant records
Database of the World's Lepidopteran Hostplants	http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/data/hostplants/search/index.dsml	Host plant records
EPPO Global Database	https://gd.eppo.int/	Regulated status, pest status, pest distribution and host plant records
EUROPHYT	https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/europhyt_en	Pest interceptions and outbreak reports
Gallformers	https://www.gallformers.org/	Host plant records
Leaf-miners	https://www.leafmines.co.uk/html/plants.htm	Host plant records
GBIF	https://www.gbif.org/	Arthropods distribution in EU ('human observation' category) only for validated records
MyCoPortal	https://www.mycoportal.org/portal/collections/harvestparams.php	Pest distribution
Nemaplex	http://nemaplex.ucdavis.edu/Nemabase2010/PlantNematodeHostStatusDDQuery.aspx	Pest distribution
PESI portal	https://www.eu-nomen.eu/portal/	Pest distribution
Plant Parasites of Europe	https://bladmineerders.nl/scientific-plant-names-genera/	Host plant records
Plant Pest Information Network	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/plant-pest-information-network/	Host plant records
Scalenet	https://scalenet.info/associates/	Pest distribution and host plant records
Scoly-Hub Scolytinae hosts and distribution database	https://www.scolytinaehostsdatabase.eu/site/it/home/	Host plant records and pest distribution
Spider Mites Web	https://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/spmweb/	Host plant records
USDA ARS Fungal Database	https://fungi.ars.usda.gov/	Pest distribution and host plant records
Web of Science: All Databases (Web of Science Core Collection, CABI: CAB Abstracts, BIOSIS Citation Index, Chinese Science Citation Database, Current Contents Connect, Data Citation Index, FSTA, KCI-Korean Journal Database, Russian Science Citation Index, MEDLINE, SciELO Citation Index, Zoological Record)	Web of Science https://www.webofknowledge.com	Host plant records and evidence of impact (for actionable pests)
World Agroforestry	https://www.worldagroforestry.org/treedb2/speciesprofile.php?Spid=1749	Host plant records

(Continues)

Additional documents were retrieved when developing the Opinion. The available scientific information, including previous EFSA opinions on the relevant pests and diseases and the relevant literature and legislation (e.g. Regulation (EU) 2016/2031; Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2018/2019; (EU) 2018/2018; and (EU) 2019/2072), was taken into account.

2.3 | Methodology

When developing the Opinion, the Panel followed the EFSA Guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high-risk plant dossiers (EFSA PLH Panel, 2019) and the EFSA Standard Protocol for Commodity Risk Assessment (Gardi et al., 2025).

Pests potentially associated with the commodity in the country of origin and fulfilling the selection criteria (see Section 2.3.2) are identified as relevant pests.

For pests non-regulated in the EU selected for further evaluation (see Section 2.3.2), all relevant risk information is summarised in a pest data sheet, a conclusion on the likelihood of the commodity being free from each of the relevant pests is determined and uncertainties are identified using expert judgements (Expert Knowledge Elicitation, see Section 2.4).

Relevant pests with a quarantine status in the EU are prohibited from being introduced to the EU according to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and therefore should not be present on imported plant commodities. Consequently, no specific measures are defined in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213. For these pests, no assessment of likelihood of pest freedom on the exported commodity is performed unless the Panel considers appropriate to conduct such an evaluation or if it is specifically requested by the European Commission.

2.3.1 | Commodity information

Based on the information provided by DEFRA from the UK, the characteristics of the commodity were summarised in Section 3 of this Opinion.

2.3.2 | Identification of pests potentially associated with the commodity

To evaluate the pest risk associated with the importation of *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* from the UK, a pest list was compiled. The pest list is a compilation of all identified plant pests associated with *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* based on information provided in the Dossier Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and on further literature searches performed by the Panel.

The scientific names of the host plants (i.e. *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* , *L. periclymenum* and *Lonicera* genus) were used when searching in the EPPO Global database, CABI Crop Protection Compendium and other databases (Table 3), with the exception of EUROPHYT/TRACES-NT and Web of Science, for which the search procedure is described below in the text. EUROPHYT was consulted by searching for the interceptions associated with commodities imported from *the* UK, at species and genus, from 1995 to May 2020, and TRACES-NT for interceptions from May 2020 to present. For the pests selected for further evaluation, a search in the EUROPHYT and/or TRACES-NT was performed for the interceptions from the whole world, at species and genus level.

The search strategy used for Web of Science Databases was designed by combining common names for pests and diseases, terms describing symptoms of plant diseases and the scientific and common names of the commodity. All of the pests already retrieved using the other databases were removed from the search terms in order to be able to reduce the number of records to be screened. The established search string is detailed in Supporting information (Annex A) and was run on 6 December 2024.

The titles and abstracts of the scientific papers retrieved were screened, and the pests associated with the *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* were included in the pest list. The pest list was eventually further compiled with other relevant information (e.g., EPPO code per pest, taxonomic information, categorisation, distribution) useful for the selection of the pests relevant for the purposes of this Opinion.

The compiled pest list (Supporting information: Annex B) includes all pests and other entities reported as associated with *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum*.

The evaluation of the compiled pest list was done in two steps: first, the relevance of the EU regulated pests was evaluated (Section 4.1); second, the relevance of any other plant pests was evaluated (Section 4.2).

The relevance of an EU regulated pest for this Opinion was based on evidence that:

(i) *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* is/are host of the pest;
(ii) the pest is present in the UK;
(iii) one or more life stages of the pest can be associated with the specified commodity.

Pests that fulfilled all criteria were selected as relevant.

The relevance of an EU non-regulated pest for this Opinion was based on the same criteria used for EU regulated pests. In addition, further criteria were considered: if the pest is (i) absent or (ii) has a limited distribution in the EU and if the pest (iii) might have an impact in the EU. Pests that fulfilled all criteria were selected for further evaluation. Pests for which limited information was available on one or more criteria used to identify them as relevant for this Opinion, e.g. on potential impact, are listed in Section 4.3.

2.3.3 | Listing and evaluation of risk mitigation measures

All implemented risk mitigation measures were listed and evaluated. When evaluating the likelihood of pest freedom at origin, the following types of potential infection sources for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* in nurseries were considered (see also Figure 1):

- pest entry from surrounding areas,
- pest entry with new plants/seeds,
- pest spread within the nursery.

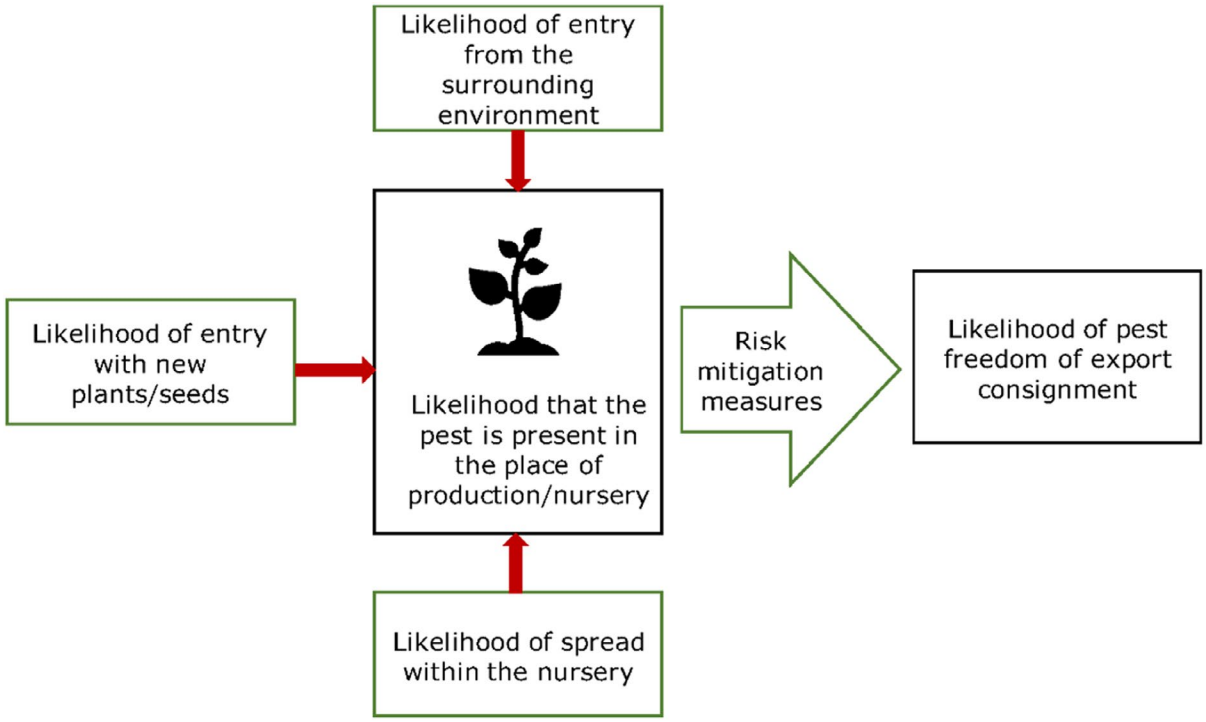

FIGURE 1 Conceptual framework to assess the likelihood that plants are exported free from relevant pests.
Source: EFSA PLH Panel (2019).

The risk mitigation measures adopted in the plant nurseries (as communicated by DEFRA) were described and qualitatively evaluated in Section 5.2 for each relevant pest.

2.3.4 | Expert knowledge elicitation

As only EU regulated pests were selected for further evaluation (see Section 4), according to Section 2.3, no EKE was performed in this Opinion.

3 | COMMODITY INFORMATION

All the information presented in this section has been retrieved from the dossier submitted by the UK. The Panel assumes that the information retrieved from the dossier submitted by the UK is applicable to all nurseries seeking authorisation to export the commodity to the EU in the future.

3.1 | Description of the commodity

The commodity to be imported from the UK to the EU is *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* (Oliv.) Franch. (EPPO code: LONPI; common name: box-leaved honeysuckle, privet honeysuckle; family: Caprifoliaceae), *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* Franch. (EPPO code: LONNT; common name: Wilson's honeysuckle; family: Caprifoliaceae) and *L. periclymenum* L. (EPPO code: LONPE; common name: duck honeysuckle; honeysuckle; common honeysuckle; family: Caprifoliaceae) in the form of bare root plants and whips, and rooted plants in pots (Figure 2). For *L. periclymenum*, only rooted plants in pots are requested for export. Details on plant commodities characteristics (size, age and diameter) are presented in the Table 4. According to ISPM 36 (FAO, 2019), the commodity can be classified as 'bare root plants' and 'rooted plants in pots'.

TABLE 4 Type of *Lonicera* spp. to be exported to the EU (Dossier Section 1).

Type of plant	Age	Diameter	Height/length
Rooted plants in pots (*L. peryciclamenum*)	3 years	40 mm	150 cm
Rooted plants in pots (*L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*)	4 years	40 mm	60 cm
Whips* **(*L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*)**	2 years	15 mm	60 cm
Bare-rooted plants (*L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*)	3 years	40mm	60cm

*Whips are slender, unbranched bare-rooted trees. Bare-rooted plants can be either whips or more mature plants.

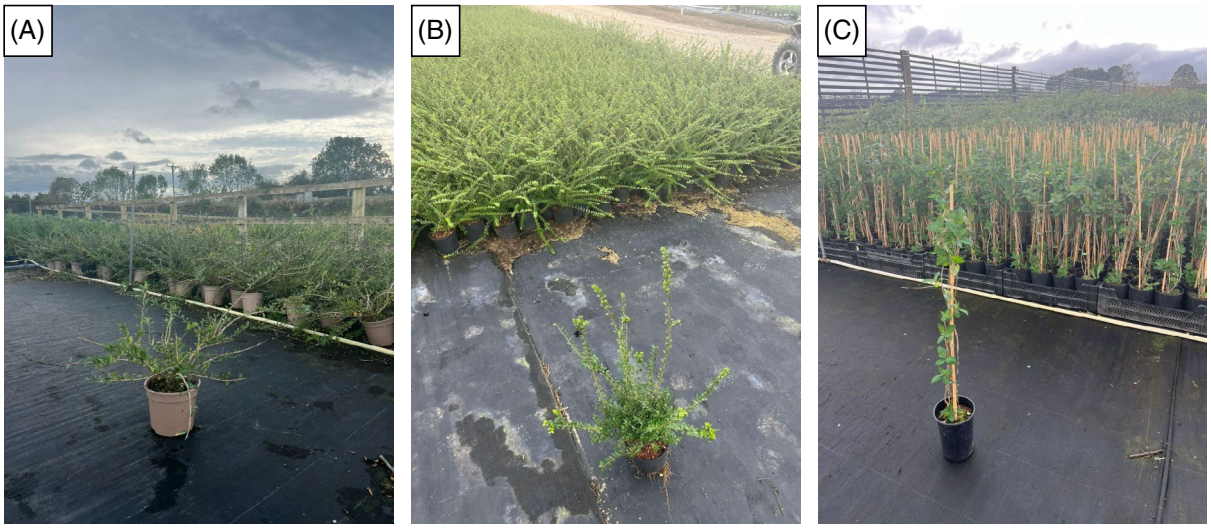

FIGURE 2 (A) Rooted plants of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* in pots; plants are grown on a membrane on top of a gravel bed; (B) rooted plants of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* in pots; plants are grown on a membrane on top of a gravel bed; (C) rooted plants of *Lonicera peryciclamenum* in pots; plants are grown in plastic trays, on a membrane, on top of a gravel bed (Source: Dossier Section 1).

The commodity is intended for export to the EU and they are only supplied directly to professional operators and traders. They may use them for propagation, growing-on, onward trading or direct sales to final customers but will generally fall into two categories: (1) plant production and further growing on by professional operators; (2) direct sales to final users as ornamentals. All plant types will be mainly traded to Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. According to the Dossier Section 1, the expected trade volume for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*, *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. peryciclamenum* is listed in Table 5.

Bare-rooted plants will be harvested in winter (November to March/April) as this is the best time to move/export dormant plants, while rooted plants in pots can be moved/exported at any time of the year to fulfil consumer demand, but more usually from September to May (Table 5; Dossier Section 1).

TABLE 5 Expected trade volume per year and seasonal timing planned for export to the EU for *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata*, *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *Lonicera peryciclamenum*.

Type of plant	Number of items	Seasonal timing
Bare root plants for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*	9000	November to March/April
Rooted plants in pots for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata*	6000	All year (mainly September to May)
Bare root plants for *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis*	8000	November to March/April
Rooted plants in pots for *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis*	5000	All year (mainly September to May)
Rooted plants in pots for *L. peryciclamenum*	15,000	All year (mainly September to May)

3.2 | Description of the production areas

The nurseries that have contributed to the technical information required to prepare the technical dossier are located in Northern England (Dossier Section 1). While these nurseries are likely to be responsible for most UK movements to Northern Ireland and the EU, the information they have contributed is intended to be representative of general industry practice. As with any market access application submitted in line with IPPC guidance, it is assumed, unless specifically stated otherwise, that the application is made at the country-to-country level. All nurseries requesting to export would need to meet the import requirements set out in any subsequent EU legislation, as the nurseries that have contributed technical information to the dossiers (Dossier Section 1).

According to the dossier, most of the nurseries also produce plants for the local market, and there is no distancing between production areas for the export and the local market.

The minimum and maximum sizes of nurseries growing *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata* and *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* for export are as follows: for container grown stock, a minimum of 8 ha and a maximum of 150 ha; for field-grown stock intended for bare-rooted plants, the maximum size is 325 ha. The exporting nurseries grow a range of other plant species (Dossier Section 4). The minimum and maximum proportions of *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata* and *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* grown compared to other plant species are approximately 0.2%–0.5%; while for *L. peryciclamenum*, it corresponds to 0.2%–1% (Dossier Section 1).

The exporting nurseries are predominantly situated in the rural areas. The surrounding land is mainly arable farmland with some pasture for animals and small areas of woodland. Arable crops are present in the local environment and are rotated in line with good farming practices and include oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*), wheat (*Triticum* spp.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), turnips (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *rapa*), potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) and maize (*Zea mays*). The pasture is predominantly composed of ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.). Woodlands tend to be a standard UK mixed woodland, with a range of UK native trees such as oak (*Quercus robur*), pine (*Pinus* spp.), poplar (*Populus* spp.), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), holly (*Ilex* spp.), Norway maple (*Acer platanus*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) (Dossier Section 1). The nearest woodland to the nursery borders the boundary fence.

Hedges are often used to define field boundaries and grown along roadsides and are made up of a range of species including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), holly (*Ilex* spp.), ivy (*Hedera* spp.), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus)*, hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and leylandii (*Cupressus x leylandii*) (Dossier Section 1).

The minimum distance in a straight line, between the growing area in the nurseries and the closest *Lonicera* spp. plants in the local surroundings, is 10 m. It is not possible to identify what plant species are growing within the gardens of private dwellings.

3.3 | Production and handling processes

3.3.1 | Growing conditions

As the plants are intended for outdoor cultivation, only early growth stages are normally maintained under protection, such as young plants/seedlings that are vulnerable to climatic conditions, including frost. The commodity to be exported should therefore be regarded as outdoor grown. Growth under protection is primarily to protect against external climatic conditions rather than protection from pests. The early stages of plants grown under protection are maintained in plastic polytunnels or in glasshouses which typically consist of a metal or wood frame construction and glass panels (Dossier Section 1).

The growing media used for potted plants is either virgin peat or peat-free compost (a mixture of coir, tree bark, wood fibre, etc.) complying with the requirements for growing media as specified in Annex VII of the Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. This growing media is certified and heat treated by commercial suppliers during production to eliminate pests and diseases.

3.3.2 | Source of planting material

The starting material is a mix of seeds and seedlings; none of the nurseries expected to export to the EU produce plants from grafting. Therefore, there are no mother plants of *Lonicera* spp. present in the nurseries. *Lonicera* spp. are not grown from certified seed; seedlings sourced in the UK are certified with UK Plant Passports; seedlings from the EU countries are certified with phytosanitary certificates. Most plants are grown from UK material, but some seedling plants may be obtained from the EU (Netherlands, Belgium and France).

3.3.3 | Production cycle

The growing conditions are as follows (as defined in Annex 1 of ISPM 36 (FAO, 2019)):

- Field grown in containers (cells, pots, tubes, etc.) outdoors – for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata, L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* and *L. peryciclamenum;*
- Field grown (in soil) – for *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata* and *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis*.

The commodity production stages and the phenology of the crop associated are reported in Table 6.

TABLE 6 Commodity production stages (planting, grafting) and the phenology of the crop (including flowering, leaf drop) and harvesting periods (lifting).

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Applicant country seasons	Winter		Spring			Summer			Autumn			Winter
Planting (bare root)												
Planting (rooted plants)*												
Flowering**												
Lifting***												
Leaf drop****												

*Rooted plants in pots can be planted at any time of year (light grey), though winter is the most common (dark grey). **For *Lonicera ligustrina*, flowering occurs during late spring (April to June), depending upon the variety and the weather conditions (orange); for *L. periclymenum*, flowering occurs during mid-late summer (July to September), depending upon the variety and weather conditions (green). ***Only valid for *L. ligustrina* plants. ****Only valid for *L. periclymenum*.

Planting: Bare root plants are planted from late autumn until early spring (November to March). Rooted plants in pots can be planted at any time of year, though winter is most common.

Lifting: Bare root plants will be harvested in winter to be able to lift plants from the field and because this is the best time to move dormant plants. They will then be root-washed on site and stored prior to export. Rooted plants in pots can be moved at any point in the year to fulfil customer demand.

Pruning: Whips are not pruned. Bare-rooted plants and rooted plants in pots will be pruned according to the needs of the customer.

Exporting: *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* and *L. ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* will be exported with leaves as this is an evergreen plant. *Lonicera peryciclamenum* plants may be exported with leaves depending on the time of year.

All nurseries have plant hygiene, housekeeping rules and practices in place, which are communicated to all relevant employees. The rules depend on the plants handled and the type of business and refer to growing media, water usage, weed management, tools and visitors.

Growing media: Rooted plants in pots are grown in EU-compliant growing media in pots for their whole life. The growing media used is either virgin peat or peat-free compost (a mixture of coir, tree bark, wood fibre, etc.) complying with the requirements for growing media as specified in Annex VII of the Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. This growing media is certified and heat treated by commercial suppliers during production to eliminate pests and diseases (Dossier Section 1).

Water usage: Growers are required to assess water sources, irrigation and drainage systems used in plant production for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests. All main water supply meets the UK standard Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulation 2016 and the WHO/EU potable water standards (Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and the revised Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184), which includes a total freedom from both human and plant pathogens (Article 2-(7)). All mains water conducting pipework fully complies with the UK Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations of 1999 and the amendments of 2019. Irrigation water used is not stored in any open tanks where airborne contamination could take place and is entirely isolated from any outside exposure.

In some cases, where the underlying geology permits, nurseries can draw water directly from bore holes drilled into underground aquafers. The water from such supplies is generally of such high quality that it is fit for human consumption with little to no further processing and is often bottled and sold as mineral water. Some nurseries contributing to rainwater or freshwater watercourse application for both environmental and efficiency reasons use a combination of rain capture systems or abstract directly from available watercourses. All water is passed through a sand filtration system to remove contaminants and is contained in storage tanks prior to use. One nursery that operates this approach is currently in the process of installing additional nanobubble technology to treat the water.

Weed management: Growers are obliged to have an appropriate programme of weed management in place on the nursery. Growing areas are kept clear of non-cultivated herbaceous plants. In access areas, non-cultivated herbaceous plants are kept to a minimum and only exist at nursery boundaries. Non-cultivated herbaceous plants grow on less than 1% of the nursery area. The predominant species are rye grasses (*Lolium*). Other identified species may include dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*), hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsute*), common daisy (*Bellis perennis*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). These are all extremely low in number.

Cleaning and sterilisation: general hygiene measures are undertaken as part of routine nursery production, including disinfection of tools and equipment between batches/lots. Tools are disinfected after operation on a stock and before being used on a different plant species. The tools are dipped into various disinfectants and wiped with a clean cloth between trees to reduce the risk of virus and bacterial transfer between subjects.

Waste treatment and disposal: All residues or waste materials shall be assessed for the potential to host, harbour and transmit pests. Post-harvest and through the autumn and winter, nursery management is centred on pest and disease prevention and maintaining good levels of nursery hygiene. Leaves, prunings and weeds are all removed from the nursery to reduce the number of overwintering sites for pests and diseases.

3.3.4 | Pest monitoring during production

The UK carries out surveys for regulated quarantine pests. The crops are inspected visually on a regular basis by competent nursery staff as part of the growing process. All plants are also carefully inspected by nurseries on arrival and dispatch for any plant health issues.

3.3.5 | Pest management during production

All plants within UK nurseries are grown under the same phytosanitary measures, meeting the requirements of the UK Plant Passporting regime (Dossier section 1).

All nurseries and producers are registered as professional operators with the UK NPPO, either by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in England and Wales, or with SASA by the Scottish Government, and are authorised to issue UK plant passports and phytosanitary certificates for export, verifying they meet the required national sanitary standards (Dossier Section 1).

3.3.6 | Post-harvest processes and export procedure

For export procedures, the UK NPPO carries out inspections and testing (where required by the country of destination's plant health legislation) to ensure all requirements are fulfilled and a valid phytosanitary certificate with the correct additional declarations is issued (Dossier Section 1).

The preparation of the commodities for export is carried out inside the nurseries in a closed environment, e.g. a packing shed (Dossier Section 1).

The following processes are typical of all exporting nurseries:

- Bare root plants are lifted and washed free from soil with a low-pressure washer in the outdoors nursery area away from the packing/cold store area. In some cases, the plants may be kept in cold storage for up to 5 months after harvesting prior to export (Dossier Section 1.0). Prior to export, bare root plants may be placed in bundles, depending on the size of the plants (5–25). They are then wrapped in polythene and packed and distributed on ISPM 15 certified wooden pallets or metal pallets. Alternatively, they may be placed in pallets, which are then wrapped in polythene. Small volume orders may be packed in waxed cardboard cartons or polythene bags and dispatched via courier (Dossier Section 1.0).
- Rooted plants in pots are transported on Danish trolleys for smaller containers, or ISPM 15 certified pallets, or individually in pots for larger containers (Dossier Section 1.0).

Plants are transported by lorry (size dependent on load quantity). Sensitive plants will occasionally be transported by temperature-controlled lorry if weather conditions during transit are likely to be very cold (Dossier Section 1).

4 | IDENTIFICATION OF PESTS POTENTIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMODITY

The search for potential pests associated with the *Lonicera* genus (as described in Section 2.3.2) rendered a total of 1090 species (for search string and pest list, see Supporting information: Annex A and Annex B).

4.1 | EU regulated pests associated with the commodity

Twenty-five EU regulated species are reported to use *Lonicera* spp. as host plants. Of the EU regulated pest species evaluated (excluding RNQPs' pests), five species were listed as relevant since they are present in the UK and can be associated with the commodities (Table 7).[6]

[6]Honeysuckle yellow vein virus is included in EU 2019/2072 as Begomoviruses.

TABLE 7 Overview of the evaluation of the 24 EU regulated pest species (excluding RNQP pests) known to use commodity species as a host plant for their relevance for this opinion.

No.	Pest name according to EU legislation[a]	EPPO code	Group[b]	Pest present in UK	*Lonicera genus* confirmed as a host (reference)	Pest can be associated with the commodity		Pest relevance for the Opinion	Pest selected for the EKE
						Bare root plants and whips	Rooted plants in pots		
1	*Bemisia tabaci*	BEMITA	Insects	Yes (CABI; EPPO, 2024a, 2024b)	*Lonicera* sp., *L. japonica*, *L. sempervirens* (Lee et al., 2016; Li et al., 2011; Ueda et al., 2009)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
2	*Chloridea virescens*	HYVV00	Viruses	Yes, not widely distributed and not under official control (NPPO of UK)	*L. japonica* (Valverde et al., 2012)	Yes	Yes	No	No
3	*Choristoneura rosaceana*	CHONRO	Insects	No	*Lonicera* sp., *L. periclymenum* (Barron & Bisdee, 1984; MacKay, 1962; Schaffner, 1959; Tortricid.net, online)	Yes	Yes	No	No
4	*Helicoverpa zea*	HELIZE	Insects	No	*L. japonica* (Pair, 1994)	Yes	Yes	No	No
5	Honeysuckle yellow vein virus (HYVV, *Begomovirus macrotylomae)*	HYVV00	Viruses	Yes, not widely distributed and not under official control (NPPO of UK)	*L. japonica* (Valverde et al., 2012)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	*Lopholeucaspis japonica*	LOPLJA	Insects	No	*L. caprifolium* (Moghaddam, 2013)	Yes	Yes	No	No
7	*Lycorma delicatula*	LYCMDE	Insects	No	*Lonicera* sp. (Barringer & Ciafré, 2020), *L. japonica* (Dechaine et al., 2021)	Yes	Yes	No	No
8	*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*	MELGCH	Nematodes	No	*L. xylosteum* (Brinkman & Van Riel, 1991)	Yes	Yes	No	No
9	*Meloidogyne fallax*	MELGFA	Nematodes	Yes	*L. xylosteum* (Den et al., 2004)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	*Neokolla severini*	NKOLSE	Insects	No	*L. hispidula* (Delong & Severin, 1949)	Yes	Yes	No	No
11	*Oncometopia orbona*	ONCMUN	Insects	No	*Lonicera* spp. (Turner, 1959)	Yes	Yes	No	No
13	*Phymatotrichum omnivora*	PHMPOM	Fungi	No	*L. morrowii* *L. sempervirens*, *L. tatarica* (Anonymous, 1960)	Yes	Yes	No	No
14	*Phytophthora ramorum* (non-EU isolates)	PHYTRA	Oomycetes	Yes	*L.* hispidula (Rizzo et al., 2002)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
15	Potato virus X (non-EU isolates) (PVX, *Potevirus exopotati)*	PVX000	Viruses	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	No	No
16	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	SCITDO	Insects	Yes	*L. japonica* (Ohkubo, 1995)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
16	*Spodoptera eridania*	PRODER	Insects	No	*L. japonica* (Montezano et al., 2014)	Yes	Yes	No	No
17	*Spodoptera frugiperda*	LAPHFR	Insects	No	*L. japonica* (Han et al., 2023)	Yes	Yes	No	No
18	*Tobacco leaf curl disease*	TBLCV0	Viruses	No	*L. japonica (*Osaki et al., 1979)	Yes	Yes	No	No

TABLE 7 (Continued)

No.	Pest name according to EU legislation[a]	EPPO code	Group[b]	Pest present in UK	*Lonicera genus* confirmed as a host (reference)	Pest can be associated with the commodity		Pest relevance for the Opinion	Pest selected for the EKE
						Bare root plants and whips	Rooted plants in pots		
19	*Xiphinema rivesi*	XIPHIRI	Nematodes	No	*Lonicera* sp. (CABI)	Yes	Yes	No	No
20	*Xylella fastidiosa*	XYLEFA	Bacteria	No	*L. implexa* *L. japonica* *L. periclymenum* *Lonicera* sp. (EFSA, 2024)	Yes	Yes	No	No
21	*Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*	XYLEFM	Bacteria	No	*L. implexa* *L. japonica* *L. periclymenum* *Lonicera* sp. (EFSA, 2024)	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Scolytinae (non-European)								
21	*Scolytus japonicus*	SCOLJA	Insects	No	*Lonicera* spp. (Scolotyniae database)	Yes	Yes	No	No
22	*Xylosandrus discolor*	-	Insects	No	*Lonicera* spp. (Scolotyniae database)	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Tephritidae spp. (non-European)								
23	*Ragholetis flavicincta*	–	Insect	NA	*Lonicera* spp. (EFSA PLH Panel, 2020)	NA	NA	No	No
24	*Ragholetis reducta*	-	Insect	No	*Lonicera* spp. (EFSA PLH Panel, 2020)	NA	NA	No	No
25	*Ragholetis zephira*	-	Insect	No	*Lonicera* spp. (EFSA PLH Panel, 2020)	NA	NA	No	No

[a]Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

[b]Group names correspond to common names used in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

4.2 | Other relevant pests quarantine associated with the commodity

The information provided by the UK, integrated with the search EFSA performed, was evaluated in order to assess whether there are other potentially relevant pests of *Lonicera* spp. present in the country of export. For these potential non-regulated pests in the EU, pest risk assessment information on the probability of entry, establishment, spread and impact is usually lacking. Therefore, these pests were also evaluated based on the methodology described in Section 2.3.2.

No other relevant pests were selected for further evaluation as none met all the relevant criteria.

4.3 | List of potential pests not further assessed

For pests for which there was uncertainty at least in one of the selection criteria, the Panel identified one pest that could be of potential concern for this opinion. A specific justification for its selection is included in Table 8. These pests will be proposed for inclusion in the Horizon scanning workflow (Plant Health: Horizon Scanning Dashboard).

TABLE 8 List of pests of potential concern for which there is at least one uncertainty not further assessed and proposed for inclusion in the Horizon Scanning workflow.

No.	Current scientific name	EPPO Code	Group[a]	Pest present in UK	Present in the EU	*Lonicera* genus confirmed as a host (reference)	Pest can be associated with the commodity	Impact	Justification for inclusion in this list
1	*Sclerotium delphinii*	SCLODL	Fungi	Yes, limited	Yes, limited (Remesal et al., 2013)	*Lonicera japonica* (Zhang et al., 2014)	Yes	Yes	There are uncertainties about the distribution in EU

[a]Group names correspond to common names used in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

4.4 | Summary of pests selected for further evaluation

The five pests satisfying all the relevant criteria listed above in Section 4.1 are included in Table 9. The efficacy of the risk mitigation measures applied to the commodity was evaluated for these selected pests.

TABLE 9 List of pests relevant for this Opinion and selected for further evaluation.

No.	Current scientific name	EPPO code	Name used in the EU Legislation	Taxonomic information	Group[a]	Regulatory status
1	Honeysuckle yellow vein virus (HYVV, *Begomovirus macrotylomae)*	HYVV00	Referred as non-EU Begomoviruses	Geminiviridae; Begomovirus	Virus	EU quarantine pest according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072
2	*Bemisia tabaci*	BEMITA	*Bemisia tabaci* Genn.	Hemiptera; Aleyrodidae	Insects	EU quarantine pest according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072
3	*Meloidogyne fallax*	MELGFA	*Meloidogyne fallax* Karssen	Rhabditida; Meloidogynidae	Nematoda	EU quarantine pest according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072
4	*Phytophthora ramorum*	PHYTRA	*Phytophthora ramorum* (non-EU isolates) Werres, De Cock & Man in 't Veld	Peronosporales; Peronosporaceae	Oomycetes	EU quarantine pest according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072
5	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	SCITDO	*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood	Thysanoptera; Thripidae	Insects	EU quarantine pest according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072

[a]Group names correspond to common names used in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

5 | RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

For each selected pest (Table 9), the Panel assessed the possibility that it could be present in *Lonicera* spp. producing nurseries by evaluating the possibility that the commodity in the export nurseries is infested either by:

- introduction of the pest from the environment surrounding the nursery;
- introduction of the pest with new plants/seeds;
- spread of the pest within the nursery.

5.1 | Risk mitigation measures applied in the UK

With the information provided by the UK (Dossier Sections 1-5), the Panel summarized the risk mitigation measures (Table 10) that are implemented in the production nurseries.

TABLE 10 Overview of implemented risk mitigation measures for *Lonicera* spp. plants designated for export to the EU from the UK.

Risk mitigation measure	Implementation in the UK
Registration of production sites	All nurseries are registered as professional operator with the UK NPPO, by the APHA for England and Wales, or with SASA for Scotland, and is authorised to issue UK plant passports (Dossier Section 1).
Physical separation from the soil	Potted plants are grown on a cover that prevents the direct contact with field soil. Bare root plants are grown in field soil.
Certification of propagation material	Plants are not grown from certified seed; seedlings sourced in the UK are certified with UK Plant Passports; seedlings from the EU countries are certified with phytosanitary certificates.
Origin and treatment of growing media	In the production or procurement of *Lonicera* spp. plants, the use of growing media is assessed for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests. Growers most commonly use virgin peat or peat-free compost, which is a mixture of coir, tree bark, wood fibre, etc. The compost is heat-treated by commercial suppliers during production to eliminate pests and diseases. It is supplied in sealed bulk bags or shrink-wrapped bales and stored off the ground on pallets, these are completely hygienic and free from contamination. Where delivered in bulk, compost is kept in a dedicated bunker, either indoors, or covered by tarpaulin outdoors, and with no risk of contamination with soil or other material (Dossier Section 1).
Surveillance, monitoring and sampling	During production, inspection is carried out at least once a year as part of the Quarantine Surveillance programme (Great Britain uses the same framework for its surveillance programme as the EU). Surveillance is based on visual inspection with samples taken from symptomatic material, and where appropriate, samples are also taken from asymptomatic material (e.g. plants, tubers, soil, watercourses) (Dossier Section 1). For *P. ramorum* and *B. tabaci* specific inspections and containment measures are in place.
Hygiene measures	According to the Dossier Section 1, all the nurseries have plant hygiene and housekeeping rules and practices in place, which are communicated to all relevant employees. These practices cover growing media, weed management, water usage, cleaning and sterilisation, waste treatment and disposal and the management of visitors.
Irrigation water quality and/or treatments	Growers are required to assess water sources, irrigation and drainage systems used in the plant production for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests. Rainwater that is collected is sand filtrated. Water is routinely sampled and sent for analysis. No quarantine pests have been found (Dossier Section 1).
Application of pest control products	Crop protection is achieved using a combination of measures including approved plant protection products, biological control or physical measures. Plant protection products are only used when necessary and records of all plant protection treatments are kept (Dossier Section 1).
Washing of the roots	Bare root plants are lifted and washed free from soil (Dossier Section 1). When initially grown in the field, rooted plants in pots are lifted and root washed to remove any soil (Dossier Section 1).
Inspections and management of plants before export	Pre-export inspections are undertaken as part of the process of issuing a phytosanitary certificate. These inspections are generally undertaken as near to the time of export as possible, usually within 1–2 days, and not more than 2 weeks before export. Separate to any official inspection, plant material is checked by growers for plant health issues before dispatch.

5.2 | Evaluation of the risk mitigation measures for the selected pests

For EU regulated pests, the relevant risk mitigation measures acting on the selected pests were identified. No quantitative expert judgement has been performed for those pests. An overview of the evaluation of the selected pests is summarised in the sections below (Sections 5.2.1–5.2.5).

5.2.1 | Overview of the evaluation of *Bemisia tabaci*

Reasonings that the pest can be associated with the commodity

Bemisia tabaci (Order: Hemiptera; Family: Aleyrodidae; EPPO code: BEMITA) is regulated in the EU as a protected zone quarantine pest. *Bemisia tabaci* is a polyphagous pest with a wide host range, comprising more than 1000 different plant species (Abd-Rabou and Simmons, 2010; CABI, 2024), including *Lonicera* species (CABI, 2024). All life stages of *B. tabaci* (eggs, larvae and adults) are present on the leaves of the plants and could therefore be associated with the commodity (rooted plants in pots and bare root plants). *Bemisia tabaci* was already considered as a relevant pest for *Ligustrum* spp., *Acer* spp., *Prunus* spp., *Populus* spp. and *Berberis thunbergii* plants originating in the UK (EFSA PLH Panel, 2022, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c, 2025a, 2025b).

Bemisia tabaci has a quarantine status in the UK and outbreaks of *B. tabaci* have been restricted to greenhouses and subjected to eradication procedures. There are no records of *B. tabaci* establishing outdoors during summer (Bradshaw et al., 2019; Cuthbertson & Vänninen, 2015).

5.2.2 | Overview of the evaluation of honeysuckle yellow vein virus (HYVV, *Begomovirus macrotylomae*)

Reasonings that the pest can be associated with the commodity

Begomovirus macrotylomae (Order: Geplafuvirales; Family: Geminiviridae; common name: Honeysuckle yellow vein virus, HYVV; EPPO code: HYVV00) is listed as an EU quarantine pest (non-EU Begomoviruses, Annex IIA of (EU)2019/2072). HYVV is a monopartite begomovirus infecting primarily honeysuckle (*L. japonica*) (Lee et al., 2011; NVWA, 2025; Wang et al., 2011).

In *Lonicera* species, HYVV causes bright yellow vein symptoms (yellowing of main and small veins) which develop into a bright foliar yellow mosaic (Sastry et al., 2019).

According to DEFRA, the virus is present in the UK, not widely distributed and not under official control. *Bemisia tabaci* is the vector of this virus.

5.2.3 | Overview of the evaluation of *Meloidogyne fallax*

Reasonings that the pest can be associated with the commodity

The nematode *Meloidogyne fallax* (Order: Rhabditida; Family: Meloidogynidae; EPPO code: MELGFA) is listed as a Union Quarantine pest (Annex IIB of (EU) 2019/2072) and has a wide host range including *Lonicera* spp. (Nemaplex, online). *Meloidogyne fallax* was already considered as a relevant pest for *Acer* spp., *Betula* spp. and *Cornus* spp. plants originating in the UK (EFSA PHL Panel, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c, 2023d, 2024d, 2024e).

Meloidogyne fallax is present in the UK with a restricted distribution (EPPO, 2024a, 2024b). Suitable host plants species are present both in the nurseries and in the surroundings. The pest can enter and spread within the nurseries with infected plant material and movement of soil attached to machinery and shoes. The roots of the plants could become infected during the growth in the soil in the fields. If bare root plants are uplifted from the field, it is possible that the nematode can be present on their roots. For potted plants, where the pots are physically separated from the soil, the nematode is not expected to be present on their roots.

5.2.4 | Overview of the evaluation of *Phytophthora ramorum*

Reasonings that the pest can be associated with the commodity

The Oomycete *Phytophthora ramorum* (non-EU isolates) (Order:

Peronosporales; Family: Peronosporaceae; EPPO code: PHYTRA) is listed in Annex IIA of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. *Phytophthora ramorum* has a broad host range, including *Lonicera hispidula* (EPPO, 2024a, 2024b). *Phytophthora ramorum* is present in most regions of the UK, but it is more often reported in wetter, western regions. *Phytophthora ramorum* was considered as a relevant pest for *Acer, Alnus, Berberis thunbergii, Betula* spp., *Cornus* spp., *Corylus* spp., *Fagus* spp., *Quercus* spp., *Salix* spp., *Sorbus* spp. and *Taxus* spp. plants originating in the UK (EFSA PLH Panel, 2023e; 2024d, 2024e, 2024d, 2024e, 2025b, 2025c, 2025d, 2025e, 2025f).

The potential entry of propagules of *P. ramorum* from the surrounding environment may occur via wind, water and soil carried on shoes or feet of animals entering the nursery (if any). Additionally, the pathogen can enter with new seedlings of *Lonicera* spp., or other plant species used for plant production in the nurseries. The roots of the plants could become infected during the growth in the soil in the fields. If bare root plants are uplifted from the field, it is possible that *P. ramorum* can be present in the roots. For potted plants, where the pots are physically separated from the soil, *P. ramorum* is not expected to be present on their roots.

5.2.5 | Overview of the evaluation of *Scirtothrips dorsalis*

Reasonings that the pest can be associated with the commodity

The flower thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Order: Thysanoptera; Family: Thripidae; EPPO code: SCITDO) is regulated in the EU as a Union Quarantine pest in Annex IIA of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. *Scirtothrips dorsalis* is extremely polyphagous and *Lonicera* spp. is reported as a host (Ohkubo, 1995). *Scirtothrips dorsalis* was already considered as a relevant pest for *Acer, Ligustrum and Prunus* plants originating in the UK (EFSA PLH Panel, 2022, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c, 2023d, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c).

Scirtothrips dorsalis is reported to be present in a greenhouse (Palm House) at Royal Botanic Garden Kew in South England (Scott-Brown et al., 2018). The presence of the pest in other parts of the UK is doubtful. It is highly unlikely that *S. dorsalis* is present on *Lonicera* plants grown outdoors in the UK.

5.2.6 | Outcome of the assessment of selected pests

All five relevant pests have a quarantine status in the EU, and according to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, these pests are prohibited from being introduced to the EU. Therefore, honeysuckle yellow vein virus, *B. tabaci, M. fallax, P. ramorum* and *S. dorsalis* are not allowed to be present on imported *Lonicera* spp. plants. The level of freedom for these EU-regulated pests on exported *Lonicera* spp. plants from the UK was not quantitatively assessed.

6 | CONCLUSIONS

Five EU regulated pests were identified to be present in the UK that can potentially be associated with bare root plants, whips and rooted plants in pots of *L. ligustrina var. pileata, L. ligustrina var. yunnanensis* and *L. periclymenum* from the UK. These pests are *B. tabaci*, honeysuckle yellow vein virus, *M. fallax, P. ramorum, S. dorsalis*. No non-regulated pests were selected as relevant for this opinion.

GLOSSARY

Control (of a pest)	Suppression, containment or eradication of a pest population (FAO, 2024a, 2024b).
Entry (of a pest)	Movement of a pest into an area where it is not yet present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled (FAO, 2024b).
Establishment (of a pest)	Perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry (FAO, 2024b).
Impact (of a pest)	The impact of the pest on the crop output and quality and on the environment in the occupied spatial units.
Introduction (of a pest)	The entry of a pest resulting in its establishment (FAO, 2024b).

Measures	Control (of a pest) is defined in ISPM 5 (FAO, 2024b) as 'Suppression, containment or eradication of a pest population' (FAO, 2024a). Control measures are measures that have a direct effect on pest abundance. Supporting measures are organisational measures or procedures supporting the choice of appropriate risk mitigation measures that do not directly affect pest abundance.
Non-regulated pest	Pest that is not regulated in the EU Legislation Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.
Pathway	Any means that allows the entry or spread of a pest (FAO, 2024b).
Phytosanitary measures	Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction or spread of quarantine pests or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests (FAO, 2024b).
Protected zone	A Protected zone is an area recognised at EU level to be free from a harmful organism, which is established in one or more other parts of the Union.
Quarantine pest	A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled (FAO, 2024b).
Regulated non-quarantine pest	A non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party (FAO, 2024b).
Risk mitigation measure	A measure acting on pest introduction and/or pest spread and/or the magnitude of the biological impact of the pest should the pest be present. A risk mitigation measure may become a phytosanitary measure, action or procedure according to the decision of the risk manager.
Spread (of a pest)	Expansion of the geographical distribution of a pest within an area (FAO, 2024b).

ABBREVIATIONS

CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
EKE	Expert Knowledge Elicitation
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
PLH	Plant Health
PRA	Pest Risk Assessment
RNQPs	Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests
UK	United Kingdom

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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ANNEX A

Web of Science All Database Search String

Web of Science All Databases Search String can be found in the online version of this output in the 'supporting information section'.

ANNEX B

Pest list of *Lonicera* spp.

Pest list of commodity species can be found in the online version of this output in the 'supporting information section'.