



Plant Passporting Update No. 51

December 2024

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Movement of finished Poinsettia plants to Northern Ireland

There have been some instances where Poinsettia plants (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) have been incorrectly moved to Northern Ireland using the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

Poinsettias moving to Northern Ireland must either move under the Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) Scheme or with an official inspection and a phytosanitary certificate issued by an APHA Plant Health inspector.

Information on moving goods to Northern Ireland can be found on gov.uk here [Export plants and plant products from Great Britain and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK](#) and [Moving plants from Great Britain to Northern Ireland \(NIPHL\) scheme - GOV.UK](#).

Introduction of a prohibition on spruce planting in the *Ips typographus* demarcated area

On the 8 October 2024, the Forestry Commission announced the introduction of an additional control measure for the current *Ips typographus* demarcated area.

A revised [Notice](#) implementing a prohibition on the planting of spruce trees came into force on the **29 October 2024** across the demarcated area (DMA) in the South East of England and East Anglia to prevent potential spread of the pest.

This prohibition restricts the planting of any spruce trees (of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr.) unless under the specified circumstances listed within the [Notice](#). Authorisation to plant spruce outside the scope of the specified exemptions can be granted in writing by the Forestry Commission.

The prohibition of planting spruce trees applies to any trees grown in the ground or in planting containers. The boundaries of the demarcated area and existing restrictions within the Notice surrounding the felling, movement and processing of spruce trees remain unchanged.

You can check the full restriction requirements and eligibility for exemptions by visiting [GOV.UK](#). Authorisations for additional exemptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis. [An explainer infographic is available providing guidance for the different industry audience groups.](#)

Ornamental grower survey

We invite you to take part in an important survey of ornamental commercial growers. This will improve our understanding of the barriers to, and costs of, reporting notifiable pests and diseases and how reporting could be encouraged.

The survey results will help us to identify any potential improvements to the reporting process and incident management. For example, these improvements could include helping you to detect and identify notifiable pests and diseases and providing support to businesses when incidents occur.

The link to the survey is: <https://www.online-host.solutions/ASP/P026120>. It should take around **20 minutes** to complete and participation is voluntary. The deadline for responding is **midnight on Thursday 19 December**.

This survey is being conducted by Blue marble Research on behalf of Fera Science Ltd, and the project is supported by Defra and the Horticultural Trades Association.

The information you provide will be treated confidentially, in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation, and neither you nor your business will be identified through your participation. For further information about your legal rights and how to exercise these please see the Privacy Notice on our website: <https://yonderdatasolutions.com/survey-privacy/eng/>. To find out how data will be stored and how and when it will be destroyed, please visit <https://bluemarbleresearch.co.uk/privacy-notice/>. Raw data will only be accessed by Fera Science Ltd.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email bec@bluemarbleresearch.co.uk.

Thank you for your participation.

Reminder: Meeting the requirements for moving large oak trees this planting season

Regulation came into force in May 2023 to permit the movement of large oak trees (girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) and enable trade within the Oak Processionary Moth management zone consisting of an Established area and a Buffer zone, provided certain biosecurity measures are met. Large oak trees from professional operators are now subject to post planting inspections to check for OPM at their planting sites as part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) biosecurity regime.

Professional Operators impacted by this new policy must keep accurate records of the details of those receiving large oak trees, including the delivery address and contact details, and store this information for a minimum of three years to ensure traceability of movements. The information can be recorded using the [Post planting Inspections form](#) which can also be found alongside more information on the biosecurity requirements on the [Restrictions on trade and movement of oak trees](#) section of the OPM GOV UK webpage.

Please visit the [GOV UK page](#) for information on where large oak trees may be moved within the OPM management zone and speak to your local Plant Health Inspector if you have any questions.

UK interceptions of quarantine pests

You can find details of recent interceptions we've made on plants and plant material to date in [2024 Non-compliance data - UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/uk-plant-health-information-portal/)

The data gives a good overview of current pests and diseases that could pose a threat to businesses, growers and traders.

There have been further instances of [*Bemisia tabaci*](#) on plants from the EU.

From September onwards there have been interceptions of [*Pochazia shantungensis*](#) (Brown Winged cicada) on a wide range of tree, hedging and ornamental species. Adults are about 15 mm long. There's more detail about the pest on the [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#) and in the photos below.

[See our latest interceptions](#)



Photo above courtesy of EPPO: Adult



Photo above courtesy of EPPO: Egg mass

Pochazia shantungensis is notifiable, if you suspect you have found the pest, please [report details](#) to your local inspector or relevant plant health authority.

Seasonal pests and diseases

Help us prevent these pests and disease from entering and being spread in the UK. We have included information on various pest threats below, which you need to be aware of:

Ornamental plants

Bemisia tabaci (Tobacco whitefly) is one of the most economically important agricultural and horticultural pests in the world, due in part to its adaptability, extreme host plant range and capacity to vector more than 110 plant pathogenic viruses.

B. tabaci adults are about 1 mm long, the male is slightly smaller than the female. The body and both pairs of wings are covered with a white, powdery,

waxy secretion. The wings are held tent-like above the body and slightly apart, so that the yellow body is apparent. The eggs are oval, pale brown in colour, with a pedicel stalk at the base, approximately 0.2 mm long. They are laid randomly, either singly or in scattered small groups, on the under-surface of leaves, although they may be laid in partial circles on smooth leaves.

B. tabaci is notifiable, please [report quarantine plant pest or disease](#)

In the UK, *B. tabaci* needs to be distinguished from those of the ubiquitous glasshouse whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*), which is not a quarantine species.

Forest and ornamental trees

Phytophthora pluvialis is a fungus-like pathogen known to affect a variety of trees including western hemlock, tanoak, pine (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus patula* and *Pinus strobus*) and Douglas-fir. Infections have been found in Cornwall, Devon, Cumbria and on one site in the northwest of Scotland. Symptoms are needle cast, shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots, see the [Forest Research symptom guide](#).

More information about [Phytophthora pluvialis](#), including how to report sightings.

Information on the Defra plant health portal

The [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#) offers a wide range of information to everyone to use as a resource. Defra have refreshed and produced a range of new and update pest and disease information.

Updated factsheets – notifiable pests:

Tomato Pin Worm -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Keiferia-lycopersicella-factsheet_update_FINAL.pdf

Sunflower maggot -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Strauzia-longipennis-factsheet_update_final.pdf

Potato cyst nematode -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Plant_Pest_Factsheet_potato_cyst_nematodes.pdf

Updated factsheets – notifiable diseases:

Potato Wart disease -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Plant_Pest_Factsheet_Potato_Wart_Disease_final-v2.pdf

Pest factsheets – non-notifiable pests:

Brown Marmorated Stink bug -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Halyomorpha_halys_Defra_Pest_Factsheet_FINAL_2024.pdf

New pest alerts – notifiable pests:

Potato cyst nematode -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Pest_alert_potato_cyst_nematode.pdf

New pest alerts – notifiable diseases:

Potato Spindle tuber viroid -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/PSTVd-Pest-Alert_final-v2.pdf

Ramorum dieback wider environment -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Phytophthora_ramorum_pest_alert_wider_environment_final.pdf

Ramorum dieback in trade -

https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Phytophthora_ramorum_pest_alert_trade_final.pdf

[Contingency plans](#) for a range of pests and diseases. Contingency plans strengthen protection against plant pests and diseases inland includes a commitment to develop effective contingency plans and clear governance to help eradicate or minimise the impact when outbreaks occur.

The [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#) which you can download and manipulate the data to help you make risk-based decisions on plants you buy and trade-in to others.

Get in touch

Always check your plants for symptoms. If you suspect disease, or have any queries, please speak to your local plant inspector or contact PHSI HQ (planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk or 0300 100 0313).

You can also get social with us:



Please contact the externalcommunications@apha.gov.uk mailbox if you no longer wish to receive these email notifications

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.