



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Update No. 58

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EU realignment

The latest GOV.UK guidance highlights that the proposed SPS agreement will bring closer alignment with EU rules for the horticulture sector, affecting how plants are certified and moved.

The key headline for trade is simpler movement of plants and plant products between Great Britain, the EU and Northern Ireland, with most routine SPS checks and certification expected to fall away.

In particular, movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland should become much more straightforward, with current paperwork and plant health labelling schemes largely no longer required.

while detail is still being finalised, businesses are encouraged to review their supply chains now and stay engaged ahead of further updates later in 2026.

[Horticulture industry: preparing your business - GOV.UK](#)

Legislation changes for autumn 2026

The GB Plant Health Service are introducing the Windsor Framework (Retail Movement Scheme: Plant Health) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 to adjust the entry requirements for the goods below into Great Britain. These measures will enhance biosecurity measures against the following pests and goods:

- *Bactrocera latifrons* (the solanum fruit fly) for fruits of *Solanum* (i.e. tomatoes, aubergines) and fruits of *Capsicum* (i.e. peppers) from Taiwan and Israel
- *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* (a soil-borne bacterium) for rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* (i.e. ginger) from all countries other than EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

[See Upcoming changes to legislation - UK Plant Health Information Portal](#) for more details.

UK horticultural businesses: we need your insight

Soil is one of the least-understood pathways for the movement of plant pests and diseases. We have very little information on how soil is traded, treated, and stored in the UK.

Your insights will play an important role to improve our understanding of soil-borne pest risks and in developing practical, proportionate biosecurity guidance to support businesses.

Take part in the survey here: [Survey on how soil commodities are traded](#), treated, and stored in the UK. The survey currently takes 6 minutes on average to complete.

This work is for a part-time PhD by one of the technical leads in the Defra plant health team as part of their role. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact suzannah.pearce@defra.gov.uk. The survey closes at midnight on 31st July.

UK interceptions of quarantine pests

You can find details of recent interceptions we've made on plants and plant material to date by country, botanical name, commodity and pest, click on the Harmful Organisms button in the UKPhins Reports for more information.

The data gives an overview of current pests and diseases that could pose a threat to businesses, growers and traders. You will see in the year to date report by harmful organisms *Bemisia tabaci* (Tobacco whitefly) on a range of plants and crops from EU countries; and *Phytophthora ramorum* on a wide range of plant species and for plant passporting in particular *Rhododendron*, *Camellia* and *Viburnum*.

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:

Ornamentals

[Bacterial spot and canker](#) of *Prunus* is caused by *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*, is a notifiable disease of *Prunus*. Although potentially damaging on all *Prunus* species, the most severely affected stone fruit hosts are peach, apricot and plum. The bacterium causes leaf spots and shot-holing of leaves, spotting of fruit and stem cankers. The disease is present in the EU, but not in GB and is notifiable. Report a pest or disease if you suspect its presence.

[Bemisia tabaci](#), commonly known as the tobacco whitefly or silverleaf whitefly, remains one of the most economically important pests affecting

protected and field-grown crops worldwide. It is a pest of a wide range of plants, including vegetables, salad crops and ornamentals, and is a vector of more than 110 viruses. *Bemisia tabaci* can cause direct damage by feeding and indirect damage through honeydew deposits. However, the viruses vectored by the pest have the greatest impact and can cause total failure of susceptible crops. There have been recent interceptions on *Hydrangea*, *Lisianthus spp*, *Colocasia esculenta* and *Echinacea*. Report a pest or disease if you suspect its presence.



Picture of Scale and adult *Bemisia tabaci*, courtesy of EPPO

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.

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