



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Update No. 48

April 2024

In this edition you can find information on:

- [Update to the medium-risk host list of *Xylella fastidiosa*](#)
- [Moving large oak trees – submit movement records by end of April](#)
- [Plants labelled 'Gunnera manicata' may be an invasive alien species](#)
- [High risk plants entering Northern Ireland](#)
- [e-Learning for growers and traders moving plants and seeds for planting from GB to NI](#)
- [Reminder - Attaching UK plant passports in the EU](#)
- [UK interceptions of quarantine pests](#)
- [Seasonal pests and diseases](#)
- [Information on the Defra plant health portal](#)

Update to the medium-risk host list of *Xylella fastidiosa*

Defra held a consultation at the end of 2023 on planned updates to the medium-risk host list of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

New stringent measures against *Xylella* were introduced from 2021 in Annex 7 of the retained Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. These measures increased the restrictions and requirements for the import of high-risk host plants, *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Coffea* sp., *Olea europaea*, *Prunus dulcis*, *Lavandula* sp., *Salvia rosmarinus* and *Nerium oleander*, to reduce the chances that *Xylella* is introduced into Great Britain. Measures were also introduced against medium-risk host plants of *Xylella*.

The issue:

Multiple findings of new *Xylella* hosts, as well as taxonomic changes of existing hosts, have occurred in recent years. The Government intends to ensure that its plant health regime continues to address the risks facing Great Britain. As a result, in response to these changing risk profiles, we propose an updated list of medium-risk host plants to enhance the level of protection against the risk of *Xylella* entering Great Britain via imported plants. This will complement existing protections, including the key mitigations already in place against the highest risk hosts. No changes are proposed for the high-risk host list.

[Find out more](#)



Xylella fastidiosa foliar symptoms on re-growth. Photo courtesy E. Birchall APHA.

Moving large oak trees – submit movement records by end of April

A reminder that if you are a Professional Operator moving large oak trees (girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) in the South East of England Oak Processionary Moth management zone, there are new policy requirements in place. You 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.

If you are in the Established area or Buffer zone and moving large oak trees, you should send your large oak movement records to APHA Plant Health Service at treehealthtracing@apha.gov.uk, speak to your Plant Health Inspector if you need more information on what to send in.

Plants labelled ‘*Gunnera manicata*’ may be an invasive alien species

This information is designed for businesses growing, selling, and/or transporting Gunnera. The advice provided concerns compliance with the Invasive Alien Species Regulation, not Plant Health Regulations. If you have any further questions, please contact the Non-native Species Inspectorate at nnsi@apha.gov.uk.

Recent scientific evidence (see [here](#) and [here](#)) has given Defra reason to believe that plants in trade considered to be *Gunnera manicata* are a hybrid of the invasive alien species [Gunnera tinctoria](#). This hybrid has been named ‘*Gunnera x cryptica*’.

Invasive alien species are invasive non-native species that have been demonstrated to have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, human health, or the economy. It is a criminal offence to (among other things) intentionally keep, breed, grow, cultivate, permit to reproduce, transport, sell, or release into the environment an invasive alien species. Restrictions that apply to invasive alien species also apply to their hybrids, in this case to *Gunnera x cryptica*.

To ensure that you are not trading in an illegal species, Defra recommends that you seek to confirm the species identity of your *Gunnera* through genetic testing. Without confirmation that plants are not a hybrid of *Gunnera tinctoria*, there is a risk of plants being seized by the Non-native Species Inspectorate.

[Find out more](#)

High risk plants entering Northern Ireland

Several interceptions have recently been made of prohibited high-risk plants, including **Jasmin, Cherry and Willow**, into Northern Ireland from Great Britain, on Northern Ireland Plant Health Labels. The high-risk plants listed in Annex I of [Regulation 2018/2019](#) are prohibited from export to the European Union pending a risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority. Due to Northern Ireland remaining part of the European Union's sanitary and phytosanitary area, it also implements Regulation 2018/2019.

Working collaboratively with industry, Defra has identified over 40 prohibited species important to trade and submitted technical dossiers for those species to the European Commission for assessment. Species that have had dossiers submitted **pending approval remain prohibited**.

To see a full list of dossiers submitted and approved for entry into Northern Ireland, and links to legislation setting out import/movement conditions can be found on the [plant health portal](#).

e-Learning for growers and traders moving plants and seeds for planting from GB to NI

The Northern Ireland plant health label (NIPHL) scheme is a way for growers and traders in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) to move certain products to Northern Ireland. Like the UK plant passport scheme, the NIPHL scheme makes sure checks for pests and diseases are carried out and goods can be traced. This means growers and traders can move these goods with a NIPHL and without a phytosanitary certificate, as long as they are destined to remain in NI.

Defra and the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) are pleased to now be able to offer e-Learning to support growers and traders. The objective of this e-learning is to ensure businesses are aware of the processes and requirements of the NIPHL scheme.

You do not need to be a member of the HTA to access this e-Learning. Simply click on this link [HTA | Defra NIPHL e-Learning](#), fill in your contact details and you will be sent a link to the e-Learning.

Reminder - Attaching UK plant passports in the EU

In May 2023 we updated businesses about the above as following a review, the Plant Health Services in Great Britain agreed to extend an easement that allows draft UK Plant Passports to be attached in EU Member States on plants for planting intended for **final users**. The easement will not be extended past 30 June 2025.

This means EU plant suppliers will still be able to attach labels with details necessary for UK Plant Passports in the EU on plants for planting intended for final users until 30 June 2025. This easement excludes propagators. Details on what must be done are on the Defra Plant Health Portal [factsheet](#) see section 6.

While the temporary easement allows for labels with UK Plant Passport information to be attached in EU Member States, the UK Plant Passport will not be valid until a visual check has been made and recorded by the UK Professional Operator. It will be necessary for the Professional Operator to record that the visual examinations have been conducted and that the requirements of the UK Plant Passport scheme have been met. Find out more on the [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#)

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 \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

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

So far during 2024, you will see instances of [Phytophthora ramorum](#) on plants from the EU.

[See our latest interceptions](#)

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:

Forest and ornamental trees

Phytophthora ramorum

[Phytophthora ramorum](#) is a serious fungus-like pathogen causing damage to a wide range of trees and plants in Europe and the USA. In the EU, *P. ramorum* has been recorded as present in Belgium, Czech Republic (eradicated nursery finding), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (including Mallorca), Sweden and the UK (including the Channel Islands). Elsewhere in Europe, *P. ramorum* has also been recorded in Norway and Switzerland.

Please also see Forest Research [Ramorum disease \(Phytophthora ramorum\) - Forest Research](#) resource with picture of P ramorum on larch trees.

If you suspect *Phytophthora ramorum*, please report it via [Reporting a pest/disease](#)



Photo courtesy of E. Birchall, APHA.

Edible crops

Quarantine thrips

[Thrips-palmi](#) (**melon thrips**) is a pest of a wide range of vegetables and ornamentals such as aubergine, chrysanthemum, cucumber, peppers and tomatoes. It is unlikely to establish outdoors in the UK. Outbreaks in protected crops can rapidly build into heavy infestations.

Thrips palmi is native to South and Southeast Asia and has spread widely through tropical and subtropical regions. The pest is frequently intercepted in a number of European countries, including the UK due to the long-distance trade of host species. Cut flowers, fruit and vegetables from the known distribution are considered the main pathway for the insect to enter the UK.

[Meloidogyne fallax](#) is a **root-knot nematode**, which is damaging to turf and certain crops including potatoes, carrots, and leeks. *M. fallax* is not categorised as a quarantine pest because it is present in GB. Its distribution is limited, but there have been a few recent outbreaks in sports turf. The main risk posed by *M. fallax* is to UK agriculture and specifically potatoes, therefore it is listed in the

GB plant health legislation as a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP) on seed potatoes. Seed potatoes must be free of *M. fallax*.



Photo 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.

Also on the Defra plant health portal are:

[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. 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 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 APHA.CorporateCommunications@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.