



Plant Passporting Update No. 47

January 2024

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Requirements of UK plant passporting

Every business that works with plants must be registered as a [professional operator](#). If you move regulated plant material in Great Britain, you also need to be authorised to issue UK plant passports, which must be applied for annually.

UK plant passporting covers all plants for planting, some seeds and seed potatoes. [Find out more about registering as a professional operator and getting authorisation to issue plant passports.](#)

Please note that if you are authorised to issue UK plant passports, you must ensure records are kept of plant passports received and issued and ensure plants are inspected on your site for quarantine plant pests and diseases. If such a pest or disease is detected, do not issue UK plant passports, but [contact APHA](#) or your local inspector.

Quarantine or non-indigenous pests or diseases include [Bemisia tabaci](#) or Bacterial Spot and Canker of Prunus ([Xanthomonas arboricola pv pruni](#))

[Find out more](#)



Bemisia tabaci larvae stages on a leaf. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Windsor Framework – Northern Ireland plant health label (NIPHL) scheme

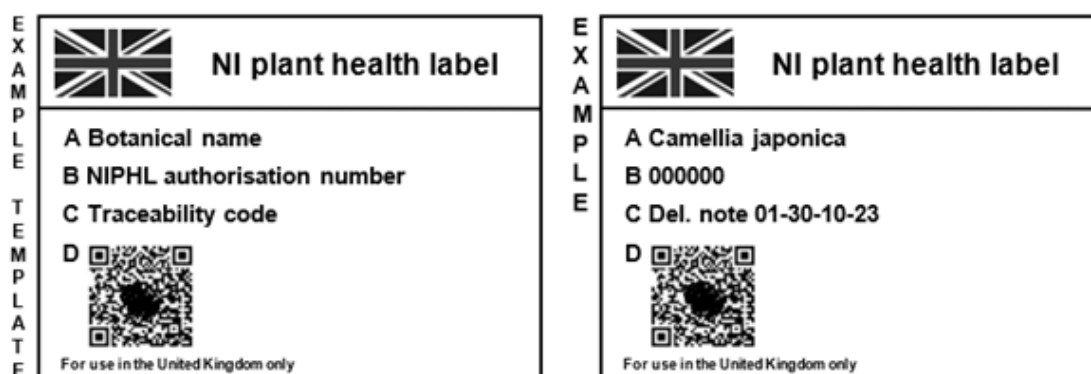
Over 200 GB businesses have been authorised to move goods to Northern Ireland via the NIPHL scheme since it launched in October. The scheme enables **plants for planting, seeds, seed potatoes, and used agricultural and forestry machinery** to be moved from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI) between professional operators, without requiring phytosanitary certification. Any of these goods moving from GB to NI must have either a NIPHL or a phytosanitary certificate.

For more information about the NIPHL scheme and how to apply, please see Defra's guidance: [Moving plants from Great Britain to Northern Ireland](#)

If you are already using the scheme, please ensure that you understand and comply with all the requirements. In addition to some goods arriving in NI without either a NIPHL or a phytosanitary certificate, issues have also been reported with documentation not being completed correctly. The NI operator receiving the goods must provide pre-movement notification to DAERA by submitting a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) on TRACES NT. They need information from the GB operator to do that. The guidance linked to above explains what information you must provide and how to do so.

If you have any queries about the NIPHL scheme, or you also trade used agricultural or forestry machinery and would be interested in attending an industry roundtable event please email traders@defra.gov.uk

Template and example NI plant health labels below:



Please note: The QR code (which must be included in part D) is provided when your authorisation is confirmed. The QR code shown above is a dummy example.

Moving large oak trees

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 [Southeast 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 can send your large oak movement records to treehealthtracing@apha.gov.uk.



Oak Processionary Moth caterpillar nest low down on a mature oak tree. Photo credit: E. Birchall, APHA

Legislation for spring 2024

In May 2024, Great Britain's Plant Health Services will introduce new pest measures.

From 31 May 2024, certain pest and trade-facilitating legislative changes will come into force. The proposed changes include:

- Regulating two *Chrysobothris* beetle species that attack a wide range of deciduous trees (please find details of the [stakeholder engagement](#) currently open on the proposed import requirements on host plants, wood and woodchips from the USA and Canada. Checks on the affected wood and woodchips will be at 100%).
- Providing specific import requirements for the introduction of spruce Christmas trees from Norway, not intended for the market, for short-term display only.

From 9 November 2024, the remaining proposed changes will come into force. This includes:

- Listing certain pests, based on preliminary assessments, as provisional quarantine pests.
- Regulating the seed of *Solanum sisymbriifolium*, known as sticky nightshade, as a known host of the regulated non-quarantine pest Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd). Checks on this good increase from 1% to 5%.

Please see a [Q&A document](#) as well as a [summary of the proposed legislative changes](#) for more information.

The World Trade Organisation have been notified of the proposals. If you have any comments or questions, email planthealth@defra.gov.uk.

UK interceptions of quarantine pests

You can find details of recent interceptions we've made on plants and plant material on the [2023 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.

During 2023, the quarantine pest [Bemisia tabaci](#) was detected numerous times on Poinsettia plants (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), Primula and *Solanum pseudocapsicum* from the EU, along with the damaging bacterial spot and canker by [Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni](#) on Prunus plants.

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

Spotted Lanternfly

[Lycorma delicatula](#) is a plant-hopper bug, commonly known as the 'spotted lanternfly', that is reported to be native to northern China. It was introduced to Korea in 2004 and the USA in 2014 where it is invasive. It feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) being one of its preferred hosts. The latter tree has become popular in the UK for planting along city streets, in urban parks and in landscaping schemes. Spotted lanternflies can be spread long distances by people who move infested plant material or items containing the cryptic egg masses. If introduced to the UK, this pest could have impacts on vineyard, orchard, and horticultural industries.

If you suspect Spotted Lanternfly, please report it via [Reporting a pest/disease](#)



Spotted Lanternfly egg mass. Photo courtesy of EPPO.



Lycorma delicatula (LYCMDE) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Spotted Lanternfly adult wings open. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Edible crops

Quarantine bacterial diseases of potato

Ring Rot of potatoes is caused by a bacterial pathogen *Clavibacter sepedonicus* that can potentially cause serious losses to potato growers and potato seed producers. The disease is favoured by cool climates and could easily establish under UK conditions.

Ring rot of potato is found in north America, parts of Asia and Russia. Across Europe and has been reported from the following countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Sweden. *Clavibacter sepedonicus* is currently absent from the UK, although it has been intercepted several times on imported ware potatoes. There have been outbreaks in the UK with the first occurring in 2003/4 on a farm in Wales and a further outbreak in ware potato crops in 2013. The outbreaks were both linked to the import of infected seed potatoes from Europe and were successfully eradicated.



Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. *sepedonicus* (CORBSE) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Ring rot. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Brown Rot of potato is caused by the bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum* and is a regulated quarantine disease of potato in the UK. Yield losses are mostly caused by tuber rotting and, in many warmer areas of the world, it is one of the main limiting factors in potato production. If allowed to become established in potato crops in the UK, the effect on our seed-potato industry could be substantial, especially for exports. It has a wide host range, affecting other crops, ornamental plants and some weed species. Once established, the costs of control could also be high. Control of this disease requires vigilance from all sectors of the industry, from growers through to merchants, packers, and retailers.



Ralstonia solanacearum sensu lato (RALSSO) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Brown rot. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus (ToBRFV)

[ToBRFV](#) is a notifiable and economically damaging virus. Fruit generally suffers from discoloration (e.g. chlorotic marbling and dark spots), uneven ripening, deformation, reduced size, and necrotic patches or spotting.

Yield losses of between 25 and 70% have been reported, largely due to the fruit being unmarketable, and the loss of production period as plants reduce in vigour and die prematurely. Additional costs can be incurred through removal of infected crops and cleaning of the glasshouse.

Read more about outbreaks in GB of [ToBRFV update September 2023 - UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) and regulation. The virus is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

Symptoms on tomato fruit:



Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus (ToBRFV). 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.