



Plant Passporting Update No. 49

July 2024

In this edition you can find information on:

- [Reminder: Movement of high-risk plants from GB to NI](#)
- [Legislation changes in 2024](#)
- [Electronic Plant Passports for wood, wood products and isolated bark](#)
- [UK interceptions of quarantine pests](#)
- [Seasonal pests and diseases](#)
- [Information on the Defra plant health portal](#)

Reminder: Movement of high-risk plants from GB to NI

In the April update we included a note about interceptions 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.

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](#).

Legislation changes in 2024

The GB Plant Health Service have introduced [legislation](#) which includes the below changes. Risk assessments are a dynamic process, so all commodities remain under continuous review.

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

- Regulating new Quarantine Pests, including import requirements for certain plants, wood and woodchips from the USA and Canada known to be hosts of two *Chrysobothris* beetle species that attack a wide range of deciduous trees.
- Providing specific import requirements for the introduction of spruce Christmas trees from Norway, for short-term display only, not intended for the market.
- Expanding a derogation on certain bonsai trees, imported from Japan, to include the species *Pinus parviflora*.

From 9 November 2024, the remaining 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 RNQP Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd). In addition, seed of all *Solanum* species will require a Phytosanitary Certificate and checks will increase from 1% to 5% (unless already required at higher levels).

Please see the [Q&A document](#) for more information.

If you have any comments or questions, please email planthealth@defra.gov.uk.

Electronic Plant Passports for wood, wood products and isolated bark

If you are a Professional Operator registered and authorised by the Forestry Commission to issue plant passports for the movement of wood, wood products and bark you must ensure that a physical copy of a plant passport accompanies all regulated material.

We are liaising with a number of professional operators about the use of electronic plant passports and are aware that a number of companies are implementing electronic plant passporting systems. However, to ensure compliance with the regulations paper, cardboard or plastic plant passports must continue to be used (**and these must physically accompany the load of regulated material**), either incorporated into delivery notes or used as standalone plant passports. This is in parallel to any electronic systems.

Please contact the Forestry Commission by emailing: plant.health@forestrycommission.gov.uk if you have any queries on electronic plant passports.

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/2024-non-compliance-data-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.

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

Oak Processionary moth (OPM) caterpillars are active now.

The caterpillars of [OPM](#) infest oak trees, eating (defoliating) the leaves, weakening the tree and leaving it vulnerable to other threats. OPM nests and caterpillars are also a hazard to human and animal health.

If you own or manage oak trees, you should use this guidance to identify and survey the caterpillars, nests and report any sightings. For more details on OPM, how to report it, what to look for and when, see the [Managing oak processionary moth in England guidance](#).

If you suspect Oak Processionary moth, please report it via the [Reporting a pest/disease page](#) on the Plant Health Portal.



Note: £1 coin for scale by early instar OPM caterpillars. Photo courtesy of E. Birchall, APHA.

Pine Processionary moth (PPM)

[Pine Processionary moth \(Thaumetopoea pityocampa\)](#) present in Europe, the PPM caterpillars feed on the needles of pine trees and some other conifer tree species, and in large numbers they can severely defoliate trees. This can weaken the trees, making them more vulnerable to attack by other pests or diseases, and to environmental stresses such as drought or flood.

PPM is not present in the UK. However, it is notifiable so please report it via the [Reporting a pest/disease page](#) on the Plant Health Portal.



Old PPM nest in southern Spain. Photo courtesy of E. Birchall, APHA.



PPM nest that people may see on inspecting plants. Photo courtesy of A. Terrell, APHA.

Red Palm weevil

[Red Palm weevil](#) (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) infests many species of palm and is present in the EU, but not in the UK. Red Palm weevil can severely attack plants which exhibit a total loss of foliage and rotting of the trunk, eventually resulting in the death of the tree. It has proved to be a devastating pest in many parts of the Mediterranean.



Collapsed palm tree. Photo courtesy of EPPO.



Adult Red Palm weevil. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Edible crops

Edible crops - Potatoes.

As ware and seed potato crops emerge and grow away this summer, while crop walking, please take time to check for [Colorado beetle](#) (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) and [Potato flea beetle](#) (*Epitrix*) which are serious pests of potato. It is important crops are checked by Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors and growers, as maintaining our pest free status supports the UK's wider international position and ability to move and export potatoes. This is why they are regulated quarantine pests, whose introduction and release are prohibited under plant health legislation.

Both pests are not present in the UK, but they are notifiable so please report them via the [Reporting a pest/disease page](#) on the Plant Health Portal.



Leptinotarsa decemlineata (LPTNDE) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Larvae of Colorado beetle on potato foliage. Photo courtesy of EPPO.



Adult Colorado beetle on foliage. Photo courtesy of EPPO.

Maize

Fall armyworm moth, [Spodoptera frugiperda](#), is native to North and South America, and is found throughout both continents. It can only survive the winter in tropical/subtropical areas but migrates very long distances to temperate areas in the summer.

The larvae prefer to feed on grasses and cereals and cause high levels of damage on crops such as maize. However, they will also feed on a wide range of other plants and could be a potential pest of glasshouse crops in the UK.

You may also want to read more on [Emerging pests of Maize factsheet](#) which includes the Fall armyworm and eight other pests and disease.

Fall armyworm is notifiable, so please report it via the [Reporting a pest/disease page](#) on the Plant Health Portal.

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 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.