



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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12 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Update to the *Xylella* medium-risk host list

I am writing to notify you of the planned update to the medium-risk host list for *Xylella fastidiosa* (*Xylella*).

### Background

*Xylella fastidiosa* ("Xylella") is a bacterium which causes disease in a wide range of commercially grown plants such as grapevine, citrus, olive and several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the UK, as well as many shrubs and herbaceous plants. The pathogen is currently absent from the UK, but we remain concerned about the possibility of Xylella arriving in the UK. Outbreaks of the disease have occurred in Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Portugal. Outbreaks in southern Italy have devastated olive production and have had major social and economic impacts.

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* spp., *Olea europaea*, *Prunus dulcis*, *Lavandula* spp., *Salvia rosmarinus* and *Nerium oleander*, to reduce the chances that Xylella is introduced into the UK.

Measures are also applied to the medium-risk host plants of Xylella. The last update of the medium-risk host list was completed in early 2024 and published on the Plant Health Portal (see [here](#)).

### Proposal

Since the last update in 2024, changes such as taxonomic revisions and additional host findings have occurred to the medium-risk host list. We propose an updated list of



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medium-risk host plants to enhance the level of protection against the risk of Xylella entering the UK via imported plants. It 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.

Please see Appendix A for the list of hosts, and Appendix B for the existing measures that will apply to this updated host list.

Comments on this proposal should be sent to [plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk) by **4 November 2025**.

Comments provided in response to this letter, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your comments. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully,

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## Appendix A - Changes to medium-risk host list of *Xylella*

Current host list	Proposed host list	Justification
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>Acacia</i>	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>Acer</i>	
<i>Adenocarpus lainzii</i>	<i>Adenocarpus</i>	Genera-wide hosts
	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	New host
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	
<i>Ambrosia</i>	<i>Ambrosia</i>	
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	
<i>Ampelopsis cordata</i>	<i>Ampelopsis cordata</i>	
<i>Anthyllis barba-jovis</i>	<i>Anthyllis barba-jovis</i>	
<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>	<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	
<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>	
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>Artemisia</i>	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	
<i>Baccharis</i>	<i>Baccharis</i>	
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	
<i>Brassica</i>	<i>Brassica</i>	
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>		Host removed
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	<i>Melaleuca citrina</i>	Taxonomy change
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	
<i>Calocephalus brownii</i>	<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>	Taxonomy change
<i>Carya</i>	<i>Carya</i>	
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	New host
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	
<i>Chionanthus</i>	<i>Chionanthus</i>	
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	<i>x Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	Taxonomy change
<i>Cistus</i>	<i>Cistus</i>	
<i>Citrus</i>	<i>Citrus</i>	
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	
	<i>Clinopodium nepeta</i>	New host
<i>Coelorachis cylindrica</i>	<i>Coelorachis cylindrica</i>	

<i>Coffea</i>	<i>Coffea</i>	
	<i>Coleonema album</i>	New host
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	<i>Coprosma repens</i>	
	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	New host
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>		Host removed
<i>Cytisus</i>	<i>Cytisus</i>	
<i>Digitaria</i>	<i>Digitaria</i>	
<i>Dimorphoteka ecklonis</i>	<i>Dimorphoteka ecklonis</i>	
<i>Dimorphoteka fruticosa</i>	<i>Dimorphoteka fruticosa</i>	
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	
<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>	
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	
	<i>Echinospartum lusitanicum</i>	New host
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	
<i>Elaeagnus x submacrophylla</i>	<i>Elaeagnus x submacrophylla</i>	
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	
<i>Eremophila maculata</i>	<i>Eremophila maculata</i>	
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	
<i>Erigeron</i>	<i>Erigeron</i>	
<i>Eriocephalus africanus</i>	<i>Eriocephalus africanus</i>	
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	
<i>Erysimum hybrids</i>	<i>Erysimum hybrids</i>	
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	
<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	
<i>Euryops chrysanthemoides</i>	<i>Euryops chrysanthemoides</i>	
<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>	<i>Euryops pectinatus</i> .	
<i>Fagus crenata</i>	<i>Fagus crenata</i>	
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Taxonomy change
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	
<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>Fraxinus</i>	
<i>Gazania rigens</i>	<i>Gazania rigens</i>	
<i>Genista</i>	<i>Genista</i>	
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i>	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i>	
	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	New host
	<i>Halimium</i>	New host
<i>Hebe</i>	<i>Hebe</i>	
<i>Helianthus</i>	<i>Helianthus</i>	
<i>Helichrysum</i>	<i>Helichrysum</i>	

<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	
<i>Hemerocallis</i>	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	
<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>		Host removed
<i>Hibiscus</i>	<i>Hibiscus</i>	
<i>Humulus scandens</i>	<i>Humulus scandens</i>	
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	
<i>Iva annua</i>	<i>Iva annua</i>	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	
<i>Jacobaea maritima</i>	<i>Jacobaea maritima</i>	
<i>Juglans</i>	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Host status narrowed down to species-level
<i>Juniperus ashei</i>	<i>Juniperus ashei</i>	
<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	
<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	
<i>Lavandula</i>	<i>Lavandula</i>	
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	<i>Malva multiflora</i>	Taxonomy change
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	<i>Lonicera</i>	Genera-wide hosts
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>		
<i>Lupinus aridorum</i>	<i>Lupinus aridorum</i>	
<i>Lupinus villosus</i>	<i>Lupinus villosus</i>	
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	
<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	<i>Medicago arborea</i>	
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	
	<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	New host
<i>Metrosideros</i>	<i>Metrosideros</i>	
<i>Mimosa</i>	<i>Mimosa</i>	
<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	
<i>Morus</i>	<i>Morus</i>	
<i>Myoporum</i>	<i>Myoporum</i>	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	<i>Myrtus communis</i>	
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	
<i>Neptunia lutea</i>	<i>Neptunia lutea</i>	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	
<i>Olea</i>	<i>Olea</i>	
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>Pelargonium</i>	
<i>Perovskia abrotanoides</i>		Taxonomy change to <i>Salvia</i> species (covered below)
<i>Persea americana</i>	<i>Persea americana</i>	
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	

<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	
<i>Phlomis italica</i>	<i>Phlomis italica</i>	
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	
<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	
<i>Pistacia vera</i>	<i>Pistacia vera</i>	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
<i>Platanus</i>	<i>Platanus</i>	
<i>Pluchea odorata</i>	<i>Pluchea odorata</i>	
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	
	<i>Polygala × grandiflora nana</i>	New host
<i>Prunus</i>	<i>Prunus</i>	
<i>Psidium</i>	<i>Psidium</i>	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	
	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	New host
<i>Pyrus</i>	<i>Pyrus</i>	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>Quercus</i>	
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	
<i>Retama monosperma</i>	<i>Retama monosperma</i>	
<i>Rhamnus</i>	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Host status narrowed down to species-level
<i>Rhus</i>	<i>Rhus</i>	
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	
<i>Rosa</i>	<i>Rosa</i>	
<i>Rubus</i>	<i>Rubus</i>	
<i>Ruta chalapensis</i>	<i>Ruta chalapensis</i>	
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	
	<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>	New host
<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Salvia</i>	
<i>Sambucus</i>	<i>Sambucus</i>	
<i>Santolina</i>	<i>Santolina</i>	
<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	
<i>Sassafras</i>	<i>Sassafras</i>	
<i>Scabiosa</i>	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	Host status narrowed down to species-level
	<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	New host
<i>Setaria magna</i>	<i>Setaria magna</i>	
<i>Solidago fistulosa</i>	<i>Solidago fistulosa</i>	
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>		Host removed
<i>Spartium</i>	<i>Spartium</i>	
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	
<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	
<i>Streptocarpus</i> hybrids	<i>Streptocarpus</i> hybrids	
<i>Symphyotrichum divaricatum</i>	<i>Symphyotrichum divaricatum</i>	
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>	<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>	

<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	
<i>Ulex</i>	<i>Ulex</i>	
<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>Ulmus</i>	
<i>Vaccinium</i>	<i>Vaccinium</i>	
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	
<i>Vinca</i>	<i>Vinca</i>	
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	
<i>Vitis</i>	<i>Vitis</i>	
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	
<i>Westringia glabra</i>	<i>Westringia glabra</i>	
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	

## Appendix B – Import requirements for medium-risk host list of *Xylella*

Entry	(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Special requirements
2.	Plants for planting, other than seeds, that belong to the genera and species listed in the list of <i>Xylella</i> host plants, other than those referred to in entries 3, 4 and 5 of this Table	Any third country	<p>The plants must be accompanied by an official statement:</p> <p><b>(a)</b> that they have been grown during a period of at least three years before export, or in the case of plants which are younger than three years, have been grown throughout their life, in a country which, in accordance with the measures specified in ISPM4, is known to be free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), or</p> <p><b>(b)</b> that they have been grown during a period of at least three years before export, or in the case of plants which are younger than three years have been grown throughout their life, in an area which has been established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 as an area that is free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), or</p> <p><b>(c)</b> in the case of plants which originate in an area* where <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) is not known to be absent, an official statement:</p> <p>(i) that the plants have been produced in a site **:         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(aa) that is authorised by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM10 as a site that is free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) and its vectors,</li> <li>(bb) that is physically protected against the introduction of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) by its vectors,</li> <li>(cc) that is surrounded by a zone with a width of 100 m which has been subject to official inspections twice a year, and where all of the plants found to be infected with, or to have symptoms of, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) have been immediately removed, and appropriate phytosanitary treatments against the vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) have been applied before that removal,</li> <li>(dd) that at appropriate times throughout the year, is subject to phytosanitary treatments to maintain freedom from the vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), including the removal of plants,</li> <li>(ee) that is subject annually, together with the zone referred to in point (cc), to at least two official inspections during the flight season of the vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.),</li> <li>(ff) where throughout the production time of the plants, neither symptoms of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) nor its vectors were found in the site or, if suspect symptoms were observed, testing was carried out and the absence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) confirmed, and</li> </ul> </p>



			<p>(gg) where throughout the production time of the plants, no symptoms of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) were found in the zone referred to in point (cc) or, if suspect symptoms were observed, testing was carried out and the absence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) confirmed,</p> <p>(ii) that representative samples of each species of the plants from the site have been subject to annual testing, at the most appropriate time, and the absence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) has been confirmed on the basis of tests carried out in accordance with internationally validated testing methods,</p> <p>(iii) that the plants have been transported in closed containers or packaging, to prevent infection with <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) or any of its known vectors,</p> <p>(iv) that as close to the time of export as is practically possible, the lots of the plants were subject to official visual inspection, sampling and molecular testing, carried out in accordance with internationally validated testing methods, using a sampling scheme able to identify with 99% reliability the level of presence of infected plants of 1%, that targets in particular plants displaying symptoms of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), and that confirmed the absence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), and</p> <p>(v) that immediately before export, the lots of the plants were subject to phytosanitary treatments against any known vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), or</p> <p><b>(d)</b> in the case of plants which originate in an area where <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) is not known to be absent, and which have been grown for their entire production cycle in vitro, an official statement:</p> <p>(i) that the plants have been grown in a site** of production</p> <p>(aa) that is authorised by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin in accordance with ISPM10 as a site of production that is free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) and its vectors,</p> <p>(bb) that is physically protected against the introduction of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) by its vectors,</p> <p>(cc) that is subjected annually to at least two official inspections carried out at appropriate times, and</p> <p>(dd) where throughout the production time of the plants, neither symptoms of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) nor its vectors were found in the site or, if suspect symptoms were observed, testing was carried out, and the absence of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) confirmed,</p>
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			<p>(ii) that the plants have been transported under sterile conditions in a transparent container that precludes the possibility of infection by <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) through its vectors, and</p> <p>(iii) that the plants have been grown from seeds, propagated under sterile conditions from mother plants which have spent their entire lives in an area free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.) and have been tested and found free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.), or have been propagated under sterile conditions from mother plants which meet the requirements in point (c)(i) and have been tested and found free from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.).</p> <p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include the official statement referred to in (a) or (b) unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously notified the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom of this information in writing.</p> <p>* The name of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".</p> <p>** The name of the site(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".</p>
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