**Pest Alert: *Bactericera cockerelli***

- *Bactericera cockerelli*, known as the tomato potato psyllid (TPP), is a **highly destructive pest of potato** causing ‘psyllid yellows’ but even more importantly is the **vector of the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum***, which causes ‘*Zebra Chip*’ disease. This disease can have a devastating impact on the yield and quality of potato crops. Tubers infested with this bacterium often develop brown stripes internally which blacken when fried resembling the markings of a zebra, leading to rejection of potatoes for sale.

- On four occasions in 2017 and 2018, *Bactericera cockerelli* was intercepted on **chilli peppers** (*Capsicum*) and **aubergines** (*Solanum melongena*) imported into the UK from Mexico. Adults and several live nymphs were found underneath the calyx of aubergines.

- The psyllid, is native to southern North America, and has been introduced to New Zealand. In February 2017 an outbreak of the pest was discovered in Western Australia.

- As this is also a pest of other solanaceous crops including **aubergine**, **pepper** and **tomato**, and can feed on many other plants, it is a threat to **potato** crops and **glasshouse solanaceous crops** in the UK.

*If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).*
For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:
Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)
Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk
Web: https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government’s Horticulture and Marketing Unit:
Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot
Web: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:
Tel: 0300 200 7847
Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk
Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk