

# Pest Alert: *Epitrix* potato beetles



**Fig. 1 & 2** Symptomatic tubers showing characteristic superficial channels on tuber surface caused by feeding of *Epitrix* larvae © Fera Science Ltd

- *Epitrix* is a very damaging beetle pest of potato from North America that is now established in Spain and Portugal.
- The main **risk of entry** into the UK is via **infested potatoes imported** from Spain and Portugal.
- The first record of *Epitrix* in the UK was in Spring 2015 when symptomatic tubers and dead larvae were intercepted on a consignment of Spanish ware potatoes imported from an area thought to be free of the pest. **It is not currently present in the UK.**

**If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).**

**For 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](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For **Scotland**, contact your local **RPID officer**:

Web site: <https://account.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/contact-us/>

Email: [potatoexports@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:potatoexports@sasa.gov.scot)

**For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:**

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: [planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Web: [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)