Pest Alert: *Pseudomonas avellanae* (Stem dieback of hazelnut)

- *Pseudomonas avellanae* is a bacterial pathogen of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) present in Greece and Italy but **absent from the UK**.
- The bacterium enters new hosts through scars in early autumn, but symptoms become apparent in hosts in the following spring. Early symptoms include **wilts** and **dieback of twigs**. **Branch cankers with associated bacterial oozing** develop later leading to **branch diebacks** and **plant death**.
- *Pseudomonas avellanae spreads from infected hosts by wind and rain* and disease may be made worse by **spring frosts** which provide further wounds for the bacteria to colonise.
- The host of *P. avellanae* is hazel, a native plant species with considerable environmental importance. The pathogen is likely to be a pest of hazel growing in **woodlands, commercial hazelnut orchards** and **hedges**.
- The pathogen is limited to specific areas in **Greece** and **Italy** with highly acidic soils and areas of the UK with **highly acidic soils** may be at greater risk.
- The most likely pathway for this pathogen to enter the UK is on **imported nursery trees** and **hedging** from Europe.

**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

For finds in the wider environment:
https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/