

# Pest Alert: *Xylella*, what you need to know and do



**Fig 1.** Symptoms of *Xylella fastidiosa* on *Lavandula x allardi*.

Photo: Agnès POIRIER, NPPO of France

## *Xylella fastidiosa*- the facts:

- *Xylella* is a bacterial disease which can kill plants by stopping them taking up water.
- At present *Xylella* is NOT known to be present in the UK but it can affect a large range of plants.
- *Xylella* has been reported in southern Italy, France including Corsica, Spain including Balearic Islands, as well as several non-EU countries.
- The symptoms of *Xylella* are difficult to spot as they are similar to those caused by heat stress on leaves (see pictures above for *Xylella* symptoms).



**Fig 2.** Browning of leaf edges (*Xylella fastidiosa*) on *Acer negundo*.

Photo: John Hartman, University of Kentucky

## What you can do:

- Before buying a plant check which country it originated from. Don't risk buying plants where the origin is unknown.
- Purchase plants from a garden centre, nursery or shop that can assure you that their plants were sourced from a *Xylella* free area.
- Don't panic if you see symptoms that look like *Xylella* – first think whether they could be due to hot weather, drought, stem/root damage or frost damage.
- Check when the plant was purchased, as those imported in the last couple of years represent the highest risk.

**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://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

**For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit or RPID officer:**

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, email: [hort.marketing@gov.scot](mailto:hort.marketing@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/topics/plant-and-tree-health](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health)

**For finds in the wider environment:**

<https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

If you have serious concerns that your plants are infected with *Xylella* then please contact your relevant plant health officials

**For further information:**

Defra plant health portal high profile pests and diseases:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/high-profile-pests-and-diseases/xylella/>