

# Olive trees, risk to trade from *Xylella* *fastidiosa*



**Symptoms of  
*Xylella*  
*fastidiosa* on  
olive trees:  
brown  
necrotic  
lesions** Photo:  
Ed Birchall, APHA  
UK



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Andrew Gaunt,  
APHA UK

- *Xylella fastidiosa* is an extremely damaging bacterial disease, with a large range of hosts. It is not currently present in the UK.
- Olive trees (*Olea*) are amongst the worst affected hosts, with devastating effects on infected orchards in Italy. Symptoms on olive trees include leaf scorch, dieback and eventually tree death.
- There is now evidence that infected olive trees have been moving in trade – with findings being recently confirmed at a wholesale nursery in Belgium, the first finding in this country.
- The plants originated in Spain where the disease has also been confirmed.
- Olive trees are very susceptible, but infection can remain latent and symptoms not show for several years.
- Due to the risk posed, there are statutory notification requirements for certain imports; check with your relevant plant health authority.
- Consider carefully your sourcing of *Xylella* host plants, particularly from countries where it is known to be present: France, Italy and Spain.

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

Follow the QR code or links below for further information about *Xylella*.



Further information;

Defra plant health portal *Xylella* factsheet:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/ph-api/pests/12570/notices/6686/documents/4190/document>

High risk host plants of *Xylella*:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Xylella-host-info-note-version7.pdf>

Full list of confirmed hosts for EU outbreaks:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible_en)

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

**For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:**

Tel: 01904 405138

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

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

**Please don't bring  
plants, flowers, fruit  
or vegetables back  
into the UK.**

They can carry pests and diseases that  
would destroy UK plants and crops.

