Xylella (Xylella fastidiosa)

Xylella is a **bacterium that is very damaging to plants**. It affects many cultivated and wild plants, including **grapevine** (on which it causes Pierce's disease), **olive**, **stone fruit** and **ornamental trees**.

It can be introduced by planting **infected material**. Native **spittlebugs** and **leafhoppers** can then spread it to other plants through feeding.

Originally from the Americas, it is now found in parts of Asia and Europe. It is not present in the UK.

If introduced, it could cause serious economic losses and environmental damage.

Symptoms:

- vary by host and environmental conditions.
- commonly include leaf scorch, yellowing, browning, and wilting.
- also include leaf loss, stunted growth, dieback and plant death.
- Xylella infection cannot be confirmed by symptoms alone. Laboratory testing is needed to confirm infection.

If you suspect it, report it by visiting https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/ or use the QR code.



Xylella symptoms on grapevine, EPPO, Courtesy of J. Clark,



Leaf scorch symptoms on oak, John Hartman, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org.



Symptoms on olive, EPPO, Courtesy of Donato Boscia.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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