



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Pest Alert: *Epitrix* potato beetles

- *Epitrix* is a very damaging pest of potato from North America that is now established in Spain and Portugal.
- The main risk of entry into the UK is via potatoes imported from these countries.
- Symptomatic tubers and dead larvae were intercepted on consignments of Spanish ware potatoes imported from an area thought to be free of the pest, in Spring 2015. These are the first records of *Epitrix* in the UK. Feeding damage left by larvae on the surface of potatoes is shown below (photos courtesy of Fera Science Limited).



If you see any suspicious symptoms on tubers, please inform the relevant authority.

**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.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: www.gov.scot/PotatoHealthControls

**For Northern Ireland, contact the
DARD Plant Health Inspection
Branch:**

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@dardni.gov.uk

Web: www.dardni.gov.uk