

helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

01 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Agrilus horni*

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Agrilus horni*. A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

**We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.**

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Government. The objective of this consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

## Background

*Agrilus horni* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) or aspen root girdler is a phytophagous jewel beetle. It is only found in North America (USA and Canada), where it injures species of young *Populus* suckers found in sparse stands; some of the susceptible *Populus* species are present in the UK.

All potential pathways of entry have been assessed as unlikely or very unlikely, but, if it arrived in the PRA area, this beetle would be likely to establish. All potential impacts are assessed as small, albeit with low confidence. This is because there is a possibility that *Populus* species present in the UK, that this beetle has not encountered in its native range, might yet prove to be more susceptible, since *Agrilus* species can sometimes be very damaging to novel hosts. Young planting and nurseries of *Populus* trees are most at risk.

## Recommendations for action

The PRA concludes that statutory action against this pest is appropriate, and that continued exclusion of the pest would be the preferred management option. *Agrilus horni* meets the criteria for a Quarantine pest and therefore GB regulation is proposed.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **26 May 2022**.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully

Richard McIntosh  
Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer  
Defra  
T: +44 (0)208 026 2396  
M: +44 (0)7767 357817  
[richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk](mailto:richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk)