



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Plant Health: Plant Passporting Updates

Number 1

Welcome to the first update on plant passporting from the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI). The aim is to provide you with information on pests and disease around plant passporting and let you know where to find information to help you make decisions and protect your business. The details are not comprehensive for all pests and diseases of current importance and interest for those involved in plant passporting.

We hope you find the content interesting and useful. If you have questions, please speak to your local inspector.

Kind regards,
Edward Birchall
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Plant Passporting

Plant passporting is a regime to help keep certain quarantine pests and diseases out of the UK and other EU Member States. Certain quarantine pests and diseases are regulated under the plant passport regime and the UK has various protected zones along with other European Member States.

A full list of these protected zones can be found in appendix D (page 36) of the Guide to Plant Passporting and Marketing Requirements. The table lists the pest/disease and the host and states the protected zones that are currently in place against each one.

Use the tables from page 57 onwards for each genera of plant to check if you must notify PHSI about entry into the UK and if the plant genera is permitted entry. You'll then be able to determine whether the plants you buy must have a protected zone plant passport, are allowed entry or whether you need to apply for and issue protected zone plant passports when you sell.

The Guide to Plant Passporting and Marketing Requirements can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Updates on plant passporting – current pests and diseases

The Guide to Plant Passporting and Marketing Requirements was updated in March 2015 and includes details about high profile protected zones for the UK, in particular for the following pests and diseases. While not a plant passporting issue directly, the guide can also be used as a reminder about tree notifications.

Please note some fact sheet contact details are being updated but the biology content is still current.

Tobacco Whitefly

Tobacco whitefly or *Bemisia tabaci* is a worldwide pest and virus vector. Originally known as a pest of sub-tropical crops, the species is now widely distributed under glass in temperate areas including most of Europe. It is not established in the UK but it could establish in protected environments, where it has the potential to be a major pest, particularly of glasshouse salad crops such as tomato and cucumber.

B. tabaci is a major vector of over 100 viruses and has a very wide host range from edible to many ornamental species. Recent interceptions have been on finished plants of Nerium oleander, Mandevilla, Hibiscus and Dipladenia.

The UK is a protected zone against *B. tabaci* so make sure relevant species of plants from other E.U. Member States arrive free from *B. tabaci* and where necessary, have a ZP plant passport.



Sweet Chestnut Blight

Sweet Chestnut Blight is a fungal disease present in the E.U. The disease causes severe die back entering via wounds quickly, leading to stem and twig blight. This disease is not present in the UK and Castanea plants must enter with a ZP plant passport which means the EU Member State where the plants come from have done the necessary surveys to protect the UK.

Further details on Sweet Chestnut blight can be found on the following websites:

- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\)](#)



Oriental Chestnut gall wasp (OCGW)

There has been an outbreak of OCGW in Kent on Castanea trees. Information on the Kent finding and follow-up actions have been made available on the [Forestry Commission \(FC\) website](#). OCGW is not normally present in the UK and Castanea plants must arrive with a ZP plant passport. If you suspect OCGW, please notify your local PHSI inspector or the Forestry Commission.



Surveillance of the wood in which the finding was made is ongoing by FC England, together with surveillance of woods in a 0-10km zone.

More information and pictures are available on the [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\) website](#).

Plane Wilt/Canker Stain

Plane Wilt or Canker Stain is a devastating fungal disease of Platanus trees present in the E.U. The UK wants to keep the disease out. Plane wilt is considered to be the most serious disease to affect Plane trees.



This disease is not present in the UK and Platanus plants must enter with a ZP plant passport – this means the EU Member State where the plants come from have done the necessary surveys to protect the UK.



For more information see the following websites:

- [Observatree](#)
- [Forestry Commission](#)

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

An outbreak of OPM was first discovered in west London in 2006 on oak trees. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves defoliating the tree. Since 2006, actions have been taken by the Forestry Commission against OPM - in 2014, parts of London were declared infested. The area outside the infested zone is known as a Protected Zone, covering the rest of the UK. OPM must not be moved into the protected zone. You should not touch the caterpillars or nests and must notify your local PHSI inspector or the Forestry Commission.



The photo pictured, courtesy of the Forestry Commission, shows caterpillars feeding on oak leaves, which can be found during the months of May and June. The OPM caterpillars gather together to

form distinctive grey white nests in sheltered branches. Adults emerge and fly from July to September.

Additional details on OPM can be found on the [Forestry Commission website](#).

Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*)

Colorado beetle is a serious pest of potato, present in the EU, but absent from the UK.

In May 2015, there was a UK finding linked to imported French potatoes. As well as entering the UK on potatoes, beetles are also occasionally imported as hitchhikers on non-host plant material, such as leafy vegetables, salad leaves, fresh herbs and grain.



Please ensure your suppliers do not send this very serious pest to the UK.

For more details, see the [pest alert](#).

Applying for Plant Passporting

The application form for plant passporting, PHAR3, has been updated and is now available via [GOV.UK](#).

Alternatively you can also apply via the e-Domero system: <http://edomero.defra.gov.uk/>.

Your local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI) will be able to provide guidance on plant passporting or other quarantine pests or diseases where required. PHSI contacts can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

If you are applying for fireblight buffer zones status, please also refer to the explanatory notes (PHAR3A) which provide more detail.

Further details

Additional information can be found on the following websites:

- [Defra UK Plant Health Risk Register](#)
- [Fera Plant Clinic](#)
- [EPPO](#)
- [Forestry Commission](#)

Other recent quarantine pest and disease issues

The following are not plant passporting issues, but are recent quarantine pests or disease issues that the nursery trade need to be aware of when buying and trading in plants.



Xylella fastidiosa

- This is a severe bacterium disease killing many hectares of olive trees in Italy.
- Further details can be found on the [Defra UK Plant Health Risk Register](#).

Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni

- This is a bacterial leaf spot of Prunus, present in the E.U. and can be devastating to cherry laurel.
- There were some interceptions made in 2014 and it's now believed to be eradicated.
- Further details can be found on the [Defra UK Plant Health Risk Register](#).
- See the [pest fact sheet](#) for more information.



Aromia bungii

- This is known as the Red Necked Longhorn beetle.
- It infests a range of trees including Prunus and the larvae feed inside the tree for two to three years.
- Further details can be found on the [Observatree website](#).
- See the [pest fact sheet](#) for more information.

Defra news and consultations

The latest news and consultations that Defra are currently carrying out can be found on the [Plant Health Risk Register](#).



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Animal and Plant Health Agency

Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

Room 10GA02/04, The National Agri-food Innovation Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

Telephone: 01904 4051638

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk © 2015 Animal and Plant Health Agency. All rights reserved.