



In this update:

- *Xylella fastidiosa*
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- Other pests and diseases

If you have queries, please speak to your local inspector or see the websites linked below for more information.

Kind regards,

Edward Birchall
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa



Above: Example of *X. fastidiosa*
on *Nerium oleander* in Italy

Below: Valencia region in Spain

From 1 March 2018, there is a requirement for the following six high risk hosts to be officially inspected, sampled and tested before movement every year:

- Olive (*Olea europaea*)
- *Nerium oleander*
- *Lavandula dentata*
- Almond (*Prunus dulcis*)
- *Polygala myrtifolia*
- *Coffea*



As of 15 February, seven new hosts have been added to the 'host list' that require a plant passport when moved within the EU:

- *Calicotome spinosa* (Spiny Broom)
- *Coronilla glauca* (Scorpion Vetch)
- *Euryops chrysanthemoides* (African Bush Daisy)
- *Genista lucida* (Broom)
- *Juglans regia* (Walnut)
- *Medicago sativa* (Alfalfa)
- *Prunus cerasus* (Morello Cherry)

Current outbreaks are in southern Italy, the PACA region of France and Corsica, a site in Germany between Saxony and Thuringia, on mainland Spain in the Valencia region, and in all the Balearic islands. See the maps and names of outbreak (demarcated) areas on the [European website](#).

Hosts are listed on the [European Commission](#) database and must move with a plant passport within and between Member States. Annual authorisation of premises must be carried out - plants with suspect symptoms will be tested.

Information sources on *X. fastidiosa*

On [GOV.UK](#), you can see a full list of the hosts, information on current demarcated (infected) areas with maps, and a consolidated list used for applying for authorisation to issue plant passports for hosts of *X. fastidiosa*.

Details on the disease and a short summary of *Xylella* high risk hosts are available on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#), and the [Forestry Commission website](#) also has further information.

Plant Passporting format changes

In update No 8 in October 2017, we included a link to an EU Commission public consultation on new plant passport formats. This is because a new EU regulation on protective measures against plant pests, [Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031](#), came into force on 14 December 2016.

The Regulation won't apply until December 2019, but the first piece of supporting legislation setting out the detail of the new regulatory requirements has been adopted. This is [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2313](#), which sets out the new requirements on the **format of plant passports**.

Models of the plant passports can be found in the Annexes of Regulation 2017/2313 and include different versions depending on whether it is being introduced into and moved within the EU, within a protected zone, and/or is being combined with a certification label. It's worth noting that plant passports that are issued **before** the application date of 14 December 2019 will remain valid until 14 December 2023.

Defra's Plant Health Policy team regularly consulted the Plant Health Advisory Forum on this text as it was being discussed and developed with the European Commission and other Member States, and the final text includes a number of points identified as important through this process.

The fact that that this piece of legislation has been adopted and published means that stakeholders and industry have time to understand and prepare for the new format requirements in time for implementation of Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031 by 14 December 2019. Further discussions are underway on other aspects associated with plant passport arrangements and we will report on these in due course.

New plant passporting changes

Following various updates in 2017, the following came in to full force on 1 January 2018 and include the following.

A new passporting requirement

For *Choisya* and *Murraya* – a plant passport is required to confirm absence from the vector of citrus greening disease.

Three new plant species susceptible to *Bemisia tabaci* (Tobacco Whitefly); *Dipladenia*, *Mandevilla* and *Nerium oleander*, must have an

official plant passporting inspection to help support measures against *Bemisia tabaci* entering the UK protected zone.

To help meet the above measures, The Netherlands has released the following statement:

“Because these procedures are similar to export certification we will implement this by using the EU communication document. This will also ensure a national safeguard that an inspection has been carried out since operators can only obtain a communication document after filing and completion of an official inspection. This procedure is operated as part of our web-based IT e-CertNL programme.

“On the communication document a specific reference will be included that the inspection has been carried out in line with EU ZP requirements for *Bemisia tabaci*, or reference to the ZP-a2 code.

“As with all IT programmes, this implementation will take somewhat longer than originally planned and we envision to systematically start making use of this facility by 31 March 2018.”

New Protected Zones

- Bacterial shothole of Prunus (*Xanthomonas arboricola pv pruni*) - the PZ code is ZPb3. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#)
- Elm Yellows Phytoplasma (*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*) - the PZ code is ZPb01. See the [Forestry Commission pest alert](#). Palm borer (*Paysandisia archon*) - the PZ code is ZPa14.1. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#)
- Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) - the PZ code is ZPa14.2. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#)
- Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea pitycampa*) - the PZ code is ZPa15.1. See the [Forestry Commission website](#).

We have put the above into a handy summary of the new protected zone (PZ) requirements on [GOV.UK](#). Full details are laid down in [Implementing Directive 2017/1279](#).

Please note, if the correct plant passport and PZ code is not present with the plants or a quarantine pest is present, then statutory enforcement action will be taken, which may result in the plants being destroyed.

Other pests and diseases

The following pests have recently been added to the [UK Risk Register](#).

Pests of trees and ornamentals:

- [Anthonomus spilotus](#) – pear leaf weevil, a pest of pear trees present in Kent. See the article [Anthonomus spilotus Redtenbacher, 1847 \(Curculionidae\) new to Britain, a pest in pear orchards in Southern England](#) for more details and images.

Pests of food crops:

- [Magnaporthe oryzae Triticum pathotype](#) – a fungus causing ‘wheat blast’ in South Asia and South America
- [Grapevine fanleaf virus](#) – a virus present in much of Europe and recently found in the UK. See the [DPV website](#) for more information and images
- *Eurytoma schreineri* – plum seed wasp, a pest of *Prunus* fruit in eastern Europe. See the [fact sheet](#) for images (please note it’s in Czech).

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the [Plant Health Risk Register](#), ensuring you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on.

New pest factsheets:

- [Aromia bungii](#) – red necked longhorn beetle. Outbreak in Italy and pest of *Prunus*
- [Rhagoletis pomonella](#) – apple maggot fly
- [Thaumatotibia leucotreta](#) – false codling moth

Next steps

- Please talk to your local Plant Health inspector about *X. fastidiosa* and if any changes are needed to your plant passport authorisation
- Use the [Defra Plant Health Risk Register](#) to review the plant species you buy or trade in and where pests and diseases occur to help mitigate risks to your business
- Check your plants for symptoms. If you suspect a quarantine pest of disease, telephone PHSI HQ on 01904 405138 or contact your local Plant Health inspector.

More information

There is more information on a wide range of pests and diseases at the following sources:

- [Defra Plant Health Risk Register](#)
- [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\)](#)
- [EPPO photos](#) of plant infected with *X. fastidiosa*
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Defra Plant Health Portal - *X. fastidiosa*](#)



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