



In this update:

- *Xylella fastidiosa*
- Plant Passport fees
- Protected Zone changes
- New Plant Health Law
- Oak Processionary Moth
- Other pests and diseases

If you have queries, please speak to your local inspector or please research through the web links.

Kind regards,

Edward Birchall
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa



X. fastidiosa on olive in Italy

Please remain alert to the risks posed by the bacterial disease *X. fastidiosa* and make informed buying decisions and careful sourcing, traceability and good hygiene measures, to reduce the risk of introducing the disease to the UK.

Current demarcated 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](#).



In April 2018 Spain detected *X. fastidiosa* for the first time in olive trees near to Madrid, outside the current outbreak area in the region of Valencia. There has also been a finding on *Polygala myrtifolia* plants in a glasshouse in Almeria.

What authorised plant passporters must do:

Hosts to *X. fastidiosa* are listed on the [European Commission](#) database and must move with a plant passport within and between Member States. There must be an annual authorisation of premises with testing of plants with suspect symptoms, with additional testing requirements for the 6 high risk hosts of: Olive (*Olea europaea*), *Nerium oleander*, *Lavandula dentata*, Almond (*Prunus dulcis*), *Polygala myrtifolia* and *Coffea*.

Information sources on *X. fastidiosa*

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

Plant Passporting

Inspection fees:

The fees for inspections changed on 6 April 2018 following consultation. This includes a new additional charge of £18.78 which will be applied when annual applications for authorisation are submitted in paper form rather than on-line. Information on how to apply on-line if not already doing so, how new increases in charges will be introduced in three phases over the next year and other information on plant passporting can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu> .

Protected Zone changes (PZs):

As of 1st May the EU Committee reviewed and agreed various PZs which came into force on 1st May, including a request from Northern Ireland:

- To cease having PZ status for the bacterial disease Fire Blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) which affects *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Cotoneaster* etc., which means a standard plant passport is now only required for Fire Blight hosts to N. Ireland. (Note: The PZ for Fire Blight will remain for part of the UK, namely IOM and Channel Islands; and Republic of Ireland).
- To cease having PZ status for the fungal canker, Brunchorstia disease (*Gremmeniella abietina*) of *Pinus*.
- A new PZ for two leaf miners called *Liriomyza huidobrensis* and *Liriomyza trifolii* to N. Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Details of the PZ annex codes are: a14.01 and a14.02 respectively. For details on leaf miners, see pest fact sheet <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Liriomyza-Factsheet2.pdf>

New Plant Health Law:

In previous editions we have included details about the changes to plant passport formats, see details at [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2313](#) which are adopted and start in December 2019 and gives businesses time to make changes. Click the link as it has an explanation of what the format parts are.

Below is an example -




xxxxx / Plant Passport¹

- A xxxxx²
- B XX³ – xxxxx⁴
- C xxxxx⁵
- D XX⁷ or 8



xxxxx / Plant Passport¹

- A xxxxx²
- B XX³ – xxxxx⁴
- C ^{5,6}
- D XX⁷ or 8



xxxxx / Plant Passport¹

- A xxxxx²
- B XX³ – xxxxx⁴
- C xxxxx⁵
- D XX⁷ or 8



xxxxx / Plant Passport¹

- A xxxxx²
- B XX³ – xxxxx⁴
- C xxxxx⁵
- D XX⁷ or 8

Other changes are to be negotiated and APHA and Defra held a meeting on 1st May with those interested in plant passporting to go through some of the implications of the new Regulation, and plan to hold more in the future as more of the detail is known. If you are interested in attending any future meetings, please contact Susan.Livingstone@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Pests and diseases

Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) outbreaks are present in and around London referred to as the infested zone. The caterpillars emerge in mid-April to May and feed on oak leaves defoliating the tree. The Forestry Commission (FC) have been taking action in conjunction with landowners against OPM in the infested zone. The area outside the infested zone is the Protected Zone (PZ), covering the rest of the UK. OPM must not be moved into the PZ, so make sure you inspect and check oak you receive or dispatch to ensure it is free from OPM.

Up to date information, maps and what to look for can be found on the [Forestry Commission website](#) along with an OPM manual www.forestry.gov.uk/opmanual that you may find useful for husbandry and control.



OPM nest and procession on an oak tree

Anyone who suspects OPM must notify their local PHSI inspector or the Forestry Commission via Tree Alert <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert> . If you cannot use Tree Alert:

- email your report to opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- telephone 0300 067 4442

You should not touch the caterpillars or nests as the hairs can cause irritation to humans and animals.

Other pests and diseases

The following have recently been added to the Defra Plant Health Risk Register that you may find useful:

Pests of trees:

[*Dendroctonus simplex*](#) – Eastern larch beetle, a North American bark beetle pest of larch.

Crop pests:

[*Eggplant mottled dwarf nucleorhabdovirus*](#) – a virus of vegetable crops and ornamentals present in Europe.

[*Grapevine Syrah virus 1*](#) – a virus of grapevines present in Europe.

[*Euzophera semifuneralis*](#) – American plum borer, a moth pest of cherry, plum and apple orchards in the US. Image available at:

<https://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=semifuneralis>

Protected crop pests:

[*Contarinia jongi*](#) – a gall midge pest of *Alstromeria* flowers.

[*Scutellonema brachyurus*](#) – a polyphagous nematode with a cosmopolitan distribution.

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.

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 or 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 plants infected with *X. fastidiosa*
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Defra Plant Health Portal](#) - *X. fastidiosa* fact sheet



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