

Plant Passporting Updates No.12: August 2018

Dear Plant Passporter, in this edition:

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Oak processionary moth (OPM)

Following a recent interception in trade Defra has introduced legislation, which will come into force on Tuesday 21 August 2018, to protect oak trees against the imminent danger of introducing *Thaumetopoea processionea* (OPM) into the Protected Zone through import and movement (OPM is an established pest in London and surrounding areas, but the majority of the UK is designated a Protected Zone).

OPM caterpillars cause significant damage to oak trees and can pose risks to human and animal health.

More information on the legislation can be found on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-plant-health-topical-issues#oak-processionary-moth-thaumetopoea-processionea>

More information on OPM can be found on the Forestry Commission website.

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/opm>

Remain alert to *Xylella fastidiosa*

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

Current demarcated outbreaks are in southern Italy, the PACA region of France and Corsica, on mainland Spain in the Valencia region, and in all the Balearic Islands. You can see the maps and names of outbreak (demarcated) areas on the European Commission's website.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/latest-developments_en

Authorised plant passporters must check the European Commission database for host plants found to be susceptible.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible_en

Hosts listed on the database 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
- Coffea

Further information sources on *X. fastidiosa*:

Details on the disease

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/xylellaFastidiosa2015.pdf>

A handy short summary of Xylella high risk hosts to help with sourcing decisions <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/high-profile-pests-and-diseases/xylella/>,

Further information from the Forestry Commission

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/xylella>

Changes to the plant passport format

In previous editions we have included details about the forthcoming changes to plant passport formats which are adopted and start in December 2019. For an explanation of what the format parts are you can go to the The European Commission's website.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R2313&qid=1517921381453&from=EN>

The European Commission would like to hear your views

In 2017/2018 a Working Group was established to draft a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (i.e. those to be prohibited from import pending risk assessment), and a list of plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required for introduction into the European Union, within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation.

UK representatives attended the meetings and provided written comments to support these discussions. In July 2018 the draft Implementing Act was subsequently presented to SCoPAFF for consideration and it was agreed

that the draft text could be presented for public consultation, before an indicative vote is taken in early September.

The consultation is open and we encourage you to review the documents presented and to provide any comments you have before the 15 August 2018 when the consultation period closes.

http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-3819666_en

Latest pests and diseases on Plant Health Risk Register

Tree Pests

- Pitch Canker of pines <https://bit.ly/2ACEfSj>
- String cottony scale, polyphagous on broadleaved trees <https://bit.ly/2LNIMXA>
- Nasonov's mealybug, attacks cypress and juniper <https://bit.ly/2O7y7Dv>
- A bug that feeds on alder seeds, recently recorded in the UK <https://bit.ly/2Md0Jut>
- Siberian fir woolly aphid, a adelgid pest of fir in northern Europe <https://bit.ly/2OavX6n>
- A fungus of Eucalyptus present in Portugal and beyond <https://bit.ly/2vuiRJm>
- A fungus which causes thousand cankers disease <https://bit.ly/2vwlRoi>
- Walnut twig beetle (vector of thousand cankers disease) <https://bit.ly/2vzsy9c>

Crop Pests

- Crimson spider mite, a tropical and polyphagous pest <https://bit.ly/2KpWD0y>

- Rice root-knot nematode, a pest of rice recently recorded in Italy <https://bit.ly/2M0eEaz>
- Root Knot polyphagous nematode present in parts of Europe and beyond <https://bit.ly/2O7axXs>
- A polyphagous nematode present in Africa and South America (previously confused with M. luci) <https://bit.ly/2vzsAOm>
- Tomato Ring Spot virus, EU regulated virus of certain ornamental, fruit and glasshouse crops, believed to be present at low levels in the UK <https://bit.ly/2vfaeDg>
- Tobacco Ring Spot virus, EU regulated virus of certain ornamental, fruit and glasshouse crops, also believed to be present at low levels in the UK <https://bit.ly/2MfyrzG>

Other Pests

- Quince moth <https://bit.ly/2n6tSg3>
- Southern armyworm <https://bit.ly/2KmBBjs>
- Blueberry leaf mottle virus <https://bit.ly/2n6u7aX>
- Blueberry maggot <https://bit.ly/2ACBsIR>
- A moth pest of blueberries present in North America <https://bit.ly/2vviYo1>
- Fruit rot of blueberry <https://bit.ly/2Ayejay>
- Sheep pen hill disease <https://bit.ly/2AAk7AI>
- Lewis spider mite <https://bit.ly/2LMwl8l>

Get in touch

Always check your plants for symptoms. If you suspect disease, or have any queries, please speak to your local plant inspector or contact PHSI HQ (planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk or 01904 405138).

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