

Plant Passporting Updates No.13: October 2018

Dear Plant Passporter, in this edition:

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Xylella fastidiosa: new requirements

Current requirements :

Authorised plant passporters must check the [European Commission database for host plants found to be susceptible](#).

The plants listed must move with a plant passport within the EU

Changes:

A) The current requirement stays the same for the 6 high risk hosts:

plants for planting, other than seeds, of Coffea, Lavandula dentata L., Nerium oleander L., Olea europaea L., Polygala myrtifolia L. and Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A. Webb, shall only be moved within the Union if they have been grown in a site that is subject to annual official inspection, sampling and testing.

A new requirements for *Polygala myrtifolia* came into force on 9th October:

'In addition, and prior to its first movement out of its production site, each lot of plants for planting of *Polygala myrtifolia* L. which is to be moved within the Union shall be subjected to official visual inspection and sampling, as close to the time of that movement as possible,'

Which means extra plant passport inspections are required where *Polygala myrtifolia* plants are produced.

B) There have been 7 new hosts added to the EU Commission host list:

- *Cistus albidus* – white leaved rock rose
- *Convolvulus cneorum* – Silverbush or Shrubby Bindweed
- *Helichrysum stoechas* – Common Shrubby Everlasting or God's flower
- *Lavandula x chaytorae* – velvet lavender
- *Lonicera japonica* – Japanese honeysuckle
- *Teucrium capitatum*
- *Veronica elliptica* – Shore hebe

The full list can be found on the [European Commission website](#).

C) Interception on olive trees – Belgium has intercepted *X. fastidiosa* on olive trees from Spain, the first interception in the EU on traded olive plants. [A Defra Pest Alert has been issued](#) and there is updated guidance on high risk hosts, as described below.

Further information sources on *X. fastidiosa*:

- [Details on the disease](#)
- [A handy short summary of *Xylella* high risk hosts to help with sourcing decisions](#)

Reminder: Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Further to the update in early August and due to an interception of OPM in early summer, Defra introduced new legislation 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 can be found on:

- [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Forestry Commission website](#)

Reminder: 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 [European Commission's website](#).

Plant Passporting fees

The fees for inspections changed on 6 April 2018. In order to allow businesses time to prepare for this change, the fees are being introduced in 3 phases, [more information can be found on GOV.UK](#).

New Pest: Oak Lace Bug

When sourcing oak plants please be aware of a new pest called Oak Lace Bug (*Corythucha arcuata*). The pest has been in Europe since 2000, more information can be found on the [plant health portal](#).

Latest pests and diseases on Plant Health Risk Register

Tree Pests:

- *Rusticoclytus rusticus* – grey tiger longhorn, a polyphagous beetle of broadleaved trees.
- *Platypus quercivorus* & *Raffaelea quercivora* – Japanese oak wilt and its vector, damaging oak species.
- *Melittomma sericeum* – Chestnut timberworm, a wood-boring beetle of oak, chestnut and elm.
- *Elsinoe coryli* – hazelnut spot anthracnose, a fungal disease of hazelnut.
- *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Ulmi* – bacterial leaf spot, a bacterial disease of elm.
- *Chionaspis pinifoliae* – pine needle scale, a scale insect of pine.

Crop Pests:

- *Aleurocanthus camelliae* – tea spiny whitefly, a pest of tea and other camellia species.

Pests recently reviewed on the Risk Register:

- *Aproceros leucopoda* – elm zig-zag sawfly, a defoliating pest of elm.

- Tomato chlorosis virus – ToCV, a virus of tomato spread by whiteflies

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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