

Plant Passporting Updates No.15: February 2019

Dear Plant Passporter, in this edition:

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- Rose Rosette Virus
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EU Exit no deal, what you need to know

- [How to trade in plants and plant products inside and outside the EU if the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no deal](#)

Importing plants and plant products from the EU:

The majority of plants and plant products (including fruit, vegetables and cut flowers) imported from the EU will continue to enter the UK freely, as currently.

After the UK leaves the EU, any plants and plant products currently managed under the EU plant passport scheme will be

subject to UK import controls. This replaces the EU plant passport's assurance and traceability, and maintains biosecurity.

Exporting plants and plant products to the EU:

In a no deal scenario, the UK will become a third country and will need to meet EU third country import requirements to export controlled plants and plant products to the EU.

For exports to the EU third-country rules will apply on all:

- [plants for planting](#)
- [wood, wood products or bark](#)
- [wood packaging material](#)

Xylella fastidiosa

There are outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy, France (Corsica and mainland France), Spain (islands of Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza and mainland Spain). In March 2018 Germany declared it had eradicated the disease.

In Italy in autumn 2018 there was a finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* in Monte Argentario, an isolated peninsula in Tuscany, detected during official surveillance.

Then in Portugal there has been confirmed finding of *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* through official surveillance, from asymptomatic *Lavandula dentata* in a zoo in the north of the country at Porto.

These findings highlight that there is an evolving situation in relation to *X. fastidiosa* and it is important to remain abreast of developments and follow good practice in relation to bio-security and sourcing of plants.

Reminder – notify APHA about olive plant imports from the EU. The Plant Health England (Amendment) (No.5) Order 2018, took effect on 26th November 2018 which extends the statutory notification scheme for imports of certain tree species from other EU member states, now including *Olea europaea* (common olive) to provide additional protection against the introduction of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

- [For more information and how to notify APHA](#)
- [Latest Defra pest alert update](#)
- [Full list of host plants](#)
- [Short summary of Xylella high risk hosts to help with sourcing decisions](#)

Eight-Toothed Spruce Bark Beetle (*Ips typographus*)

Woodland managers, land owners, the forest industry and tree nurseries that supply mature conifer specimens are being urged to remain vigilant after the Forestry Commission identified a breeding population of the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) in Kent in December 2018. This was as part of routine surveillance activity. The UK is a Protected Zone for *I. typographus*.

The beetles have been discovered in a woodland setting, the government contingency plan has been initiated and the Forestry Commission has been designated the competent body for the outbreak.

Movement restrictions have been served on-site to minimise the risk of onward spread, while further investigations and surveillance of the area is conducted. Adult beetles will be dormant and hibernating at this time of year.

- [Guidance on the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle](#)
 - [Forestry Commission act on tree pest detected in Kent](#)
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Reminder – Rose Rosette Virus

In December 2016 we alerted you to Rose Rosette Virus, a very damaging disease of Rose in the USA and Canada. It is spread by a microscopic mite, which is absent from the UK, but both the mite and virus have the potential to be inadvertently imported on dormant rose propagating material from North America. The virus causes proliferation of branches and leaves (which may appear bright red in colour), excessive thorn production, deformed buds and flowers and a lack of winter hardiness, which can lead to the death of the plants.

- [Find out more about Rose Rosette Virus](#)
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Thousand Cankers disease of Walnut

The pathogen responsible for thousand cankers disease (*Geosmithia morbida*) is spread by the North American bark beetle *Pityophthorus juglandis* – the walnut twig borer. Both were detected in Italy in 2013, the first record for Europe.

- [Find out more about thousand canker disease](#)
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Stem Nematodes of Narcissus and Tulip

Stem nematode, *Ditylenchus dipsaci*, is one of the most serious plant-parasitic nematodes of temperate regions, including Europe

and the Mediterranean area. In general, stem nematodes cause swellings and distortion of leaves and stems, and necrosis or rotting of stem bases, bulbs, tubers and rhizomes.

- [Find out more about the Stem Nematode](#)
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Colorado Beetle

When bringing in produce and potatoes into the UK, particularly in spring, please remind suppliers to ensure goods are free from Colorado Beetle, which does not occur in the UK.

- [Find out more about the Colorado Beetle](#)
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New Pest Alert

The Pepper vein yellows viruses (PeVYVs) are an emerging group of pepper viruses worldwide. So far six different, but related, species have been identified, all showing similar symptoms on Capsicum species.

- [Find out more about Pepper vein yellows viruses](#)
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Latest pests and diseases on Plant Health Risk Register

Tree Pests:

- [Anisandrus maiche](#) – An ambrosia beetle that is highly polyphagous on deciduous trees.

- [Dryocoetes himalayensis](#) – An Asian bark beetle pest of walnut species.
- [Agrilus haustulifer](#) – A buprestid beetle pest of broadleaved trees.
- [Lambdina fiscellaria](#) – The hemlock looper, a destructive defoliator of many tree species in North America.
- [Chrysomyxa ledicola](#) – Spruce needle rust, a fungal pathogen that swaps between spruce and rhododendron hosts in North America.

Crop Pests:

- [Phytophthora tentaculata](#) – Stem rot of a range of ornamental species, herbs and celery.

Pests recently reviewed on the Risk Register:

- [Microtheca ochroloma](#) – Yellow margined leaf beetle, a pest of brassica crops in the Americas.
- [Pectobacterium aroidearum](#) – A newly described Pectobacterium species.
- [Phytophthora siskiyouensis](#) – A Phytophthora of alder species.
- [Tylenchulus semipenetrans](#) – Citrus nematode, cause of Citrus slow decline syndrome.
- [Phytophthora foliorum](#) – A change of scenario for this fungal pathogen of Rhododendron, following its eradication in the UK.
- [Aceria kuko](#) – A mite of goji berries, now eradicated from the UK.
- [Echinothrips americanus](#) – A thrips pest of several ornamental species grown in protected cultivation.
- [Choristoneura conflictana](#) – The Aspen borer, a defoliating moth of tree species in North American forests.
- [Agrilus convexicollis](#) – A European jewel beetle of ash species, widespread in Europe but not yet in the UK.

Pests recently added to the Risk Register:

- [Aleurocanthus spiniferus](#) – The citrus spiny whitefly, a pest of Citrus species, with some impact on pear and Prunus.
- [Lema bilineata](#) – The tobacco slug, a beetle pest of Solanaceous ornamentals.
- [Scolytus ventralis](#) – The white fir engraver, a bark beetle pest of firs native to North America.
- [Gymnosporangium yamadae](#) – A rust of apple and juniper species native to East Asia.

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.gov.uk or 01904 405138).

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