

Plant Passporting Updates No.17: May 2019

Dear Plant Passporter, in this edition:

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Xylella fastidiosa

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

The European Commission has added nine new hosts to the list of plants that must move with a plant passport within Europe

- *Amaranthus retroflexus* (Pigweed)
- *Coprosma repens* (Looking Glass Plant)
- *Dimorphotheca fruticosa*
- *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Oleaster)
- *Euphorbia chamaesyce* (Spurge)
- *Euryops pectinatus*
- *Prunus armeniaca* (Apricot)
- *Ulex europaeus* (Gorse)

- *Ulex minor* (Dwarf Gorse)

A full list of hosts is available on the [European Commission website](#). You can also view the [list of demarcated \(infected\) areas with maps](#) which includes the findings in Tuscany area of Italy and in Porto in Portugal.

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. FC have reported OPM caterpillars emerged on 1st April. See [Forest Research website](#) which includes an OPM Manual covering timings, surveys, OPM life cycle, control methods and much more.

In August 2018 we informed you about new controls against OPM. The legislation applies to oak trees (*Quercus* L), other than *Q. suber*, with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more. Such trees represent the greatest likelihood of introducing OPM, hence the need for strengthened requirements. Existing requirements on OPM freedom continue to apply for trees with a smaller girth than 8cm.

The legislation prohibits the movement of plants into the OPM protected zone unless specific conditions are met, for more details see [gov.uk](#)

Anyone who suspects OPM must notify their local PHSI inspector or the [Forestry Commission via Tree Alert](#). If you cannot use

Tree Alert: email your report to opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk or telephone 0300 067 4442.

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

Rapid Apple Decline – new phenomenon

Defra's plant pest horizon scanning team has picked up a new issue called rapid apple decline (RAD), there's more info in these links. If you import and / or propagate Malus, you may wish to see these links about this new phenomenon:

- [Mother Nature Network article](#)
- [Good Fruit Grower article](#)
- [PennState Extension article](#)

New Pest Factsheets

- [Pests of tomato crops and seed](#) – the focus is primarily on viruses and viroids, but does include bacteria and nematodes.
- [EPPO alert on Tomato brown rugose fruit virus](#)

Latest diseases on Plant Health Risk Register

Pests recently added to the Risk Register:

- [Agrilus bilineatus](#) – the two-lined chestnut borer, a significant pest of Oak in North America.
- [Bagrada hilaris](#) – the Bagrada bug, feeding mainly on Brassica hosts.

- [Chrysobothris femorata](#) – the flat-headed apple tree borer, a polyphagous tree pest.
- [Grapevine Roditis leaf discoloration-associated virus](#) – a virus of grapevine species.
- [Litylenchus crenatae](#) – a nematode of beech species and putative cause of the beech leaf disease outbreak in the USA.
- [Lobiopa insularis](#) – a polyphagous beetle pest causing significant damage to strawberries in some areas.
- [Medythia nigrobilineata](#) – the two-striped leaf beetle of Soybean, found in Europe for this first in 2018.
- [Melanagromyza sojae](#) – the soya miner, a pest of soybean and legumes.
- [Tomato brown rugose fruit virus](#) – an emerging virus of tomato.
- [Tomato mottle mosaic virus](#) – a virus of tomato and peppers.
- [Tremex fuscicornis](#) – a European and Asian wood wasp with a wide host range on broadleaved trees.

Pests recently reviewed on the Risk Register:

- [Adelges tsugae](#) – the Hemlock woolly adelgid, a scale insect of mostly hemlock species.
- [Pepper vein yellows virus](#) – an emerging virus of pepper species.
- [Rose rosette virus](#) – a virus of rose found in North America.
- [Xylotrechus namanganensis](#) – the Namangan longhorn beetle, a polyphagous pest of several major tree species.

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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