

Plant Passporting Updates No.18: June 2019

Dear Plant Passporter, in this edition items of interest include pest changes in 2000/29/EC and new plant passport format:

- Changes to EU plant health directive 2000/29/EC you need to know
- Reminder: changes plant passport format (from 14th December 2019)
- Amended pest fact sheet on Southern tomato virus
- Southern tomato virus reviewed on the Plant Health Risk Register
- Get in touch

Changes to EU Directive 2000/29/EC

A range of new plant health measure will come into force on 1st September 2019. These have come about after the European Commission adopted the [DIRECTIVE \(EU\) 2019/523](#) which updates the current plant health directive 2000/29/EC.

The [Red Necked longhorn beetle, *Aromia bungii*](#) has been added to Directive 2000/29/EC banning the movement and spread of the pest in the EU. It is a major pest of *Prunus* already subject to emergency measures.

Plants for planting of *Quercus* have been added to the previous requirements for *Castanea* (excluding seeds) to be free of [Cryphonectria parasitica \(Sweet chestnut blight\)](#) if they go to the Czech Republic, Ireland, Sweden or UK.

Plants for planting of *Cedrus* are now included along with *Pinus* as having import and movement requirements in relation to the

UK protected zone against [Pine Processionary moth](#). The PZ code is: a15.1

Changes to enhance the requirements against *Bemisia tabaci* (Bt) for the movement of plant material into the protected zones of Ireland, certain parts of Portugal, Sweden and UK:

- *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Poinsettia) cuttings without roots intended for planting;
- Plants of *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, intended for planting, excluding seeds, there are a range of options that plants can meet: originate in an area known to be free from Bt; or no signs of Bt observed at the place of production during official inspections carried out at least once each three weeks during nine weeks prior to marketing; or where Bt is found treatments have been applied and no Bt found during official inspections carried out weekly during the three weeks prior to marketing. And, there is evidence that the above requirements have been met or for those plants at marketing with bracts or intended for direct sale to final consumer not involved in professional plant production, that the plants have been officially inspected and found free from Bt prior to their movement.
- Plants of *Begonia* intended for planting, other than seeds, tubers and tubers, and plants of *Ajuga*, *Crossandra*, *Dipladenia*, *Ficus*, *Hibiscus*, *Mandevilla* and *Nerium oleander*, intended for planting, other than seeds must meet one of the following requirements:
 - that plants originate in an areas known to be free from Bt;
 - or no signs of Bt observed at the place of production during official inspections carried out at least once each three weeks during nine weeks prior to marketing;
 - or where Bt is found treatments have been applied and no Bt found during official inspections carried out weekly during the three weeks prior to marketing,

or there is evidence that the above requirements have been met or for those plants at marketing with bracts or intended for direct sale to final consumer not involved in professional plant production, that the plants have been officially inspected and found free from Bt prior to their movement.

Northern Ireland has withdrawn its protected zone for the fungus Scleroderris canker of conifers (*Gremmeniella abietina*) which included requirements for import and movement of plants of *Pinus*, *Picea*, *Larix*, *Abies* and *Pseudotsuga*.

Northern Ireland and Ireland will have new protected zone status for [two leaf miner species](#): *Liriomyza huidobrensis* the South American serpentine leaf miner and *Liriomyza trifolii* the American serpentine leaf miner. Both pests feed on a wide range of protected ornamentals and food crops.

To strengthen the measures against Oak Processionary moth, national measures were applied from 21 August 2018 and now the requirements have been adopted into EU directive 2000/29/EC. 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. 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. The legislation requires that imports into and movements within the OPM protected zone can only take place if the oak trees concerned:

- the plants have been grown throughout their life in places of production in countries in which *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. is not known to occur
- or, the plants have been grown throughout their life in a protected zone which is recognised as such for

Thaumetopoea processionea L. or in an area free from Thaumetopoea processionea L., established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM No. 4

- or, the plants have been produced in nurseries which, along with their vicinity, have been found free from Thaumetopoea processionea L. on the basis of official inspections carried out as close as practically possible to their movement and official surveys of the nurseries and their vicinity have been carried out at appropriate times since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation to detect larvae and other symptoms of Thaumetopoea processionea L.
- or, the plants have been grown throughout their life in a site with complete physical protection against the introduction of Thaumetopoea processionea L. and have been inspected at appropriate times and found to be free

In June OPM caterpillars were found during a PHSI inspection of oak plants notified and recently imported from The Netherlands. Swift action is being taken to eradicate this finding in Hampshire, including surveillance and tracing work. Please ensure plant suppliers are aware of the UK protected zone, imports are notified to APHA and you inspect plants on arrival and during the time plants are on your sites and nurseries. [More details are in the Press release](#)

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 on 14th December 2019. To view examples and get an explanation of what the format parts are, you can go to the [European Commission's website](#).

In summary, the EU flag must be in top left hand corner; the words 'plant passport' in top right hand corner; then the letters A, B, C and D, were:

A = botanical name

B = member state ISO norm code which means using letters 'GB' followed by the client registration number APHA issues

C = traceability code e.g. week number, date, lot etc

D = EU country of origin or 3rd country origin again using the ISO norm code

For a Protected Zone, then the letters PZ must be next to the words 'plant passport' and then list the PZ annex codes (same as now) below the letters PZ.

You can find the [ISO country codes on gov.uk](#).

Amended Pests of tomato crops and seed Factsheet

The focus is primarily on viruses (includes Southern tomato virus) and viroids, but does include bacteria and nematodes. Read on to see and [find out more about these diseases and pests](#).

Disease recently reviewed on the Risk Register

[Southern tomato virus](#) – a seed-transmitted virus of tomatoes with an unknown distribution in the UK. Also known to be present in parts of Europe and elsewhere. Infections can be asymptomatic. Mostly detected in mixed infections with little evidence of the virus impacting alone.

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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