



Welcome to the second newsletter on plant passporting from the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI). This edition gives you updates on the new emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*. We hope you find the content interesting and useful. If you have questions, please speak to your local inspector.

Kind regards,
Edward Birchall,
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

New emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*

The EU Plant Health Standing Committee on Tuesday 24 November voted in favour to implement new measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* (*X. fastidiosa*), a devastating bacterial disease of a large host range and now present in parts of southern Italy, Corsica and limited parts of mainland France. This means that the current EU Decision 2015/789 will need to be updated or replaced. You may have seen news on *X. fastidiosa* in the trade press, from trade associations such as the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) and there was an item in the [first edition](#) of the Plant Health: Plant Passporting Updates in mid-August.



An example of symptoms of *Xylella fastidiosa* 'Bacterial leaf scorch' on *Nerium oleander*.

The information below gives further details of the new Decision and some of the conditions such as adding some new hosts to the plant passporting regime (also includes *Prunus* and *Quercus*). Please read the guidance carefully, so you are aware of the contents and why measures are being taken against *X. fastidiosa* by the EU Commission.

There will also be requirement on Member States to conduct official surveys annually for *X. fastidiosa* and report back to the EU Commission.

More details on the new emergency measures

The EU Plant Health Standing Committee has agreed to update current emergency measures against this pathogen, to reflect the evolving situation in Italy and France, and to improve the level of preparation of the other EU Member States.

The new Decision will take effect around the end of 2015 (as soon as it is published in the EU Official Journal) and will update the current Emergency Decision (2015/789/EU). PHSI will keep you informed of the changes and when they come into force.

The current Decision (2015/789) sets out measures to detect *X. fastidiosa* and to take certain actions in response to findings. A Defra factsheet is available on the [Fera website](#), and the [Forestry Commission](#) and [European Commission](#) websites are also helpful sources of further information.

Main changes to the Decision agreed by the Standing Committee at its November meeting include:

- A list of 'Host plants' in Annex II. These are the plant species that have been shown within the EU to be hosts of the subspecies/strains of *X. fastidiosa* detected in the EU. New hosts are being confirmed on a regular basis in Italy and France and so a list of hosts will now be maintained on a Commission database, rather than in the Decision itself. This will facilitate rapid updating and improve clarity about the confirmed hosts. Such hosts will automatically be added to the longer list of 'specified plants' referred to in Annex I of the Decision. Annex I includes those genera/species known to be hosts of any subspecies/strain of *X. fastidiosa*, not just those identified in the EU.
- Contingency plans – all EU member states must now maintain contingency plans, to help with preparedness.
- Planting prohibition in demarcated areas – the planting of 'host plants' remains prohibited in demarcated areas, but there is now a derogation available to plant such hosts in the Italian containment area within Lecce. The derogation is only available for scientific trials to investigate, for example, possible resistance to *X. fastidiosa*.
- Movement restrictions for demarcated areas – 'specified plants' must continue to meet stringent requirements (e.g. grown under physical protection, with treatments and inspections) to be moved from demarcated areas, but a derogation has been introduced for *Vitis* (vine) plants that are moved in a dormant state and have been subject to hot water treatment; European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has concluded that such treatment would eliminate any *X. fastidiosa* present.



Example of *X. fastidiosa* on Cherry



Example of *X. fastidiosa* on Cherry



Example of *X. fastidiosa* on Almond

- Plant passporting – a new plant passporting obligation has been introduced, requiring that the movements of all 'host plants' across the EU must be accompanied by a plant passport, down to the retail sale stage. A list of the genera/species that are currently considered to be 'host plants' is available below, but this list will change over time as new hosts are confirmed and added to the Commission's database. APHA and their equivalents in the Devolved Administrations will be working with relevant businesses to ensure the necessary authorisations are in place.
- Raising of awareness – all EU member states must carry out targeted awareness campaigns to inform the trade and public about the threat from *X. fastidiosa*. Relevant publicity material is already available within the UK, but the UK Plant Health Services will be reviewing this and ensuring that information is targeted as effectively as possible.

The UK Plant Health Services include *X. fastidiosa* in their surveillance programmes of plants imported from outside the EU, those being moved within the EU and those being grown in the wider environment. Those in the industry are also urged to remain vigilant and to source material carefully.

List of 'host plants' as of 25 November 2015

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex

Acer pseudoplatanus L.
Cistus monspeliensis L.
Cistus salviifolius L.
Cytisus racemosus (syn *Genista x spachiana racemosa*)
Genista ephedroides DC.
Hebe species
Lavandula angustifolia Mill.
Myrtus communis L.
Pelargonium graveolens L'Hér
Polygala myrtifolia L.
Prunus cerasifera Ehrh.
Quercus suber L.
Rosmarinus officinalis L.
Spartium junceum L.

***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. "undefined"**

Coffea species

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca

Acacia saligna (Labill.) Wendl.
Asparagus acutifolius L.
Catharanthus species
Myrtus communis L.
Cistus creticus L.
Dodonaea viscosa Jacq.
Euphorbia terracina L.
Grevillea juniperina L.
Laurus nobilis L.
Lavandula angustifolia Mill.
Myoporum insulare R. Br.
Nerium oleander L.
Olea europaea L.
Polygala myrtifolia L.
Prunus avium (L.) L.
Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A. Webb
Rhamnus alaternus L.
Rosmarinus officinalis L.
Spartium junceum L.
Vinca species
Westringia fruticosa (Willd) Druce
Westringia glabra L.

Next steps

- Please talk to your local Plant Health inspector about *X. fastidiosa* and if any changes are needed to your plant passport authorisation in the coming months.
- Check the genera you grow to see if they are in the above list.
- Familiarise yourself with *X. fastidiosa*, use the fact sheet as a guide to check your plants for symptoms and notify your local Plant Health Inspector if you suspect the disease.
- Defra has been in discussions with some stakeholders including the HTA and some businesses. PHSI will be developing a guide document to include more information and appropriate actions to take in the next few months.



Early symptoms of *X. fastidiosa* on Cherry

More information

There is more information on *X. fastidiosa* at the following sources:

- [Defra Plant Health risk register](#)
- [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\)](#)
- [EPPO photos](#)
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Defra fact sheet on *X. fastidiosa*](#)
- [The current EU Decision 2015/789](#) (to be replaced by the new Decision).



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