

Plant Passporting Updates No.21: October 2019

Dear Plant passporters and oak tree importers, this edition covers news about large oak trees from an Italian Pest Free Area, the changes to the plant passport format and more....

- Plant Passport fee changes
- New pest fact sheet, Fig Whitefly
- New & Updated entries on the Plant Health Risk Register

Oak Processionary Moth – Italian PFA

The UK has received official notification from the Italian National Plant Protection Organisation on the establishment of a Pest Free Area (PFA) in regards to *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary Moth – OPM) in the Pistoia nursery district as well as some parts of the municipality of Montemurlo in Tuscany. The UK have asked for further evidence to make sure that the PFA demonstrates the required international standards and that it meets the strengthened UK import requirements.

Until such time that the UK receives satisfactory evidence of compliance with the required standard, any imports from this area will not be allowed into the UK. In the event that the UK receives any imports of oak trees (*Quercus* L) other than *Q. suber*, with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more, from suppliers on or after the 4th October 2019 in the area designated as the Italian PFA, a statutory notice will be issued by the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) that will require that the trees are either destroyed or re-exported.

Existing requirements on OPM freedom will continue to apply for trees with a smaller girth than 8cm. For any oak trees arriving

before the 4th October importers should be informing APHA within 5 days of arrival of the consignment, the notification process can be [found on gov.uk](#) and full details are on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

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 = plant 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, lot, batch 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.

The [ISO country codes are on gov.uk](#) and refer to the column 'ISO ALPHA 2'.

Plant Passport fee changes

The fees for inspections changed on 1 October 2019. They will reduce to £61.58 for each 15 minutes (or part thereof) with a minimum fee of £123.16.

The fees are payable for each 15 minutes (or part thereof) spent in carrying out the inspection and any associated activities. These associated activities include the time it takes inspectors to travel to your site and any administration relevant to that inspection, subject to the minimum fees.

The fee for renewal inspections are the same as for first inspections.

An additional fee of £20.66 is charged if you submit an application for a plant passport authorisation in paper form rather than online.

Full details are [available on gov.uk](#).

New Pest Factsheet

[Singhiella simplex](#) or Fig whitefly is native to China, India and Myanmar. The whitefly feeds exclusively on figs (*Ficus* spp.) and is commonly known as the 'fig whitefly'.

New & Updated entries on the Plant Health Risk Register

- [Dendroctonus jeffreyi](#) – a non-European scolytine beetle which only appears to attack *Pinus jeffreyi* a species of pine tree very rarely grown in the UK.
- [Elasmopalpus lignosellus](#) – the lesser cornstalk borer, a serious pest of cereal and legume crops in the Americas.
- [Phellinus spiculosus](#) – a fungal pest of oak species in North America.
- [Phyllachora maydis](#) with *Microdochium maydis* – two fungi found in North America that can cause damage to sweetcorn, particularly if found in combination.
- [Spodoptera frugiperda](#) – the Fall army worm, has been reported from new countries in South-East Asia and from

Egypt. The Risk Register distribution has been updated to reflect these new findings.

- [Spodoptera ornithogalli](#) – the yellow striped armyworm, a North American moth which feeds on many different crops.
- [Stereonychus fraxini](#) – a beetle which damages ash in southern Europe.

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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