



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.26: April 2020

Dear Plant passporters, we recognise the additional challenges being presented to industry as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The government is supporting businesses and their employees through a package of measures during this period of unprecedented disruption. Information about how to access that support is available on the [government's business support page](#).

In this edition are items on:

- New National measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*, Emerald Ash Borer, Canker stain of Plane and Elm Yellows
- Smarter Rules for Safer Food, plant passport format and guide for plants and seeds
- New and reviewed diseases on Plant Health Risk Register
- New Pest factsheets on tomato brown rugose fruit virus and rose rosette virus

New National measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*, Elm Yellows, Canker stain of Plane and Emerald Ash Borer

Further to the article in update No25 at the end of February, that the UK Plant Health Services were seeking views on an updated pest risk analysis for *Xylella fastidiosa*, including the need for additional regulations.

On Tuesday 31st March Defra introduced legislation which implements new measures for *Xylella* following the recent consultation and [Defra's response](#), as well as new measures for emerald ash borer, canker stain of plane and elm yellows.

The new legislation is [summarised here](#) with further details [provided in an annex](#). Defra recognises the challenges that the horticultural sector and individual businesses are facing at the current time due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and we have reflected carefully on the timing of these new regulations, but believe it is important to proceed now to protect the UK's biosecurity. These new measures will come into force on 21st April 2020.

Xylella fastidiosa is a plant-pathogenic bacterium which infects a very wide range of plants. It is already heavily regulated to reduce the likelihood of it entering the UK. However, based on recent information about the risk situation some further strengthening of requirements for the import and movement of high risk host species is now needed. Plant genera / species covered in the new regulation against *X. fastidiosa* are: almond, *Coffea*, lavender, *Nerium oleander*, *Polygala myrtifolia*, olive and rosemary.

If you currently receive such plants from suppliers in other countries, please speak to your local inspector about the implications of the new regulations.

Pest and disease information you may find helpful:

- [Xylella fastidiosa](#)
- [Emerald Ash Borer](#)
- [Canker stain of Plane](#)
- [Elm Yellows – Candidatus Phytoplasma Ulmi](#)

Note: there is already in place a Protected Zone (PZ) requirement for *Ulmus* entering the UK from other EU member

states, the EPPO PZ code is PHYFUL, the [full list of PZ codes is at gov.uk](#).

Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF), plant passport format and guide for plants and seeds

On the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#) are some useful topical items you may find helpful, including the introductory guide as it shows examples of the new plant passport format and also some templates.

The Question and Answer guide also has extensive information about the new plant passport system, and the Flow chart is a helpful guide as to whether an operator should be authorised to issue plant passports.

- [Question and Answer Guide](#) (includes information on Plant Passports and Importing from 3rd countries as well)
- [Registration and Authorisation Flow Chart](#)
- [Plant Passport Introductory Guide](#)
- Factsheet: [Plant Passports](#)
- Factsheet: [Plant Passports and the Seed Marketing Sector](#)
- [Templates](#)

The EU Plant Health Regulation (PHR) was published on 26 October 2016 and will be applied to all EU member states from 14 December 2019, alongside the Official Controls Regulation.

The SRSF package revises and improves the current EU plant health legislation. This will protect domestic agriculture, horticulture, forestry, parks, gardens and the environment by preventing the entry of harmful plant pests and diseases.

New diseases added to the Plant Health Risk Register.

- [Lonsdalea quercina](#) shoot blight disease of oak trees.

The taxonomy of *Ralstonia* spp., pathogens of potatoes and other crops, has changed. Four newly described species have been added to the Risk Register:

- [Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum](#)
- [Ralstonia syzygii subspecies celebesensis](#)
- [Ralstonia syzygii subsp. indonesiensis](#)
- [Ralstonia syzygii subsp. syzygii](#)

And the scores of the species of *Ralstonia* which was already on the Risk Register have been reviewed to take account of the new taxonomy:

- [Ralstonia solanacearum](#)

Diseases reviewed on the Plant Health Risk Register

- [Clavibacter michiganensis michiganensis](#) of tomato to take account of the fact it is now considered to be present in the UK.
- [Ceratocystis platani \(Canker stain of Plane\)](#), to take account of the recent findings in northern parts of France.

New Pest Factsheets

- [Rose rosette virus factsheet](#)
 - [Tomato brown rugose fruit virus](#)
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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 0300 100 0313).

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