



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.27: May 2020

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- National measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*, Emerald Ash Borer, Canker stain of Plane and Elm Yellows
- Please contribute to two new pest consultations – Two Lined Chestnut borer and Oak Longhorn beetle
- Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)
- Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus update
- Seasonal pests and diseases on potatoes, bulbs and tomatoes
- New Pest Alert – Plum weevil damages stone, pome and sort fruit
- Other pest and disease factsheets of trees, shrubs, nursery stock and crops
- Pest score reviews on the Risk Register covering: Prunus, plane, tomatoes, oak and potatoes.

Government recognises 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](#).

Reminder – New National measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*, Elm Yellows,

Canker stain of Plane and Emerald Ash Borer

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 came into force on 21st April and 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 have reflected carefully on the timing of these new regulations, but believe it is important to proceed now to protect the UK's biosecurity.

Defra have been informed that there is some confusion within the trade regarding the position of [national measures introduced](#) in the transition period and their compliance with EU regulations.

The important points to note for businesses are:

- The Defra regulations have been in force since 21 April 2020.
- For plant movements into England from the EU, please check with your supplier that they are approved to meet the prescribed requirements and confirm with them that where applicable (i.e. in relation to Xylella fastidiosa) their details have been supplied to Defra by the relevant competent authority in the EU member state concerned.
- For movements into England from the EU of the plant species covered by the regulations, these must be accompanied by an official statement confirming that the prescribed requirements have been met.
- While the format of this official statement is not prescribed in the regulations, the expectation is that EU competent

authorities will choose to use the same documentation as for EU plant passports. Information on EU plant passports is [available on gov.uk](#).

- In such cases, the document will need to verify that the national regulations have been complied with, through a reference to the EPPO pest code 'XYLEFA', for *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- If Defra becomes aware of alternative arrangements proposed by EU competent authorities for providing the official statement, these will be publicised.
- Please ensure that the documentation you receive clearly indicates that the national requirements have been met, as described above.

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](#).

New consultations

New consultations on two pest threats to the UK:

- The Two Lined Chestnut borer (*Agrilus bilineatus*)
- Oak Longhorn beetle (*Neocerambyx raddei*)

Please go to the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#) to view the explanatory letters and proposed national measures and submit your views by 26th June.

Oak Processionary moth

OPM is established in southern, central and western Europe as far north as Great Britain, northern Germany and The Netherlands. In July 2019, the plant health service intercepted around 60 cases of oak processionary moth on recently planted trees in the Protected Zone imported from Europe. The Forestry Commission, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Devolved Administrations (Wales and Scotland) acted swiftly to deal with these findings which included the destruction of infested trees and caterpillar.

In the UK, OPM is established in most of Greater London and in some surrounding counties in South East England. See the [distribution map](#) for its current known distribution, including – red dots indicate OPM nests found in 2019 (not all nests found in the Core Zone are recorded) and a green dotted line indicates the outer boundary of the known affected area in 2019.

The remainder of the United Kingdom (UK), during the transition period, continues to be designated a Protected Zone (PZ) with special restrictions on movements of oak plants to minimise the risk of introducing this pest to new areas. If you suspect or find OPM you must notify your local PHSI or to the Forestry Commission via [TreeAlert](#).

Please look at the [Forest Research OPM pages](#) for pictures, management zones, treatments and health and safety and more.

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus update

Fruit – There have been five outbreaks of ToBRFV in commercial tomato production sites in England, one in 2019 and four in 2020.

Seed – ToBRFV has also been intercepted on imported tomato and pepper seed and on imported fruit destined for retail. Where the virus is confirmed, official action is being taken by the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) to contain and eradicate the virus.

More details on the [Plant Health Portal](#) and [factsheet](#)

Seasonal pests and diseases

Help prevent these pests and disease from entering and being spread in the UK.

Potatoes

- [Colorado beetle](#) can arrive on new season veg, potatoes and herbs and is not present in the UK.
- [Epitrix the Potato Flea beetle](#) a damaging pest, present in Portugal and Spain, Epitrix is not present in the UK
- [Potato Brown rot factsheet](#) and [irrigation guidelines](#) for growers. Brown Rot is present in a limited number of water courses where there are controls on irrigation.

Bulbs

- [Stem nematode of Narcissus and Tulip](#) present in the UK and can be moved on bulbs.

Tomatoes

- As well as ToBRFV and Brown Rot above, there are other [pests of tomatoes](#) which can damage fruit crops

New Pest alert

- [Plum weevil, *Conotrachelus nenuphar*](#) can cause high levels of damage in orchards to stone, pome and soft fruit.
- [Other Pest factsheets](#) on notifiable pests that affect trees, shrubs, nursery stock and crops.

Pest scores reviewed on the Plant Health Risk Register

- ‘Candidatus Phytoplasma prunorum’ a phytoplasma which causes European stone fruit yellows disease on Prunus
- *Ceratocystis platani* (Canker stain of plane)
- *Clavibacter michiganensis michiganensis* (bacterial canker of tomato)
- *Neocerambyx raddei* (oak long-horned beetle, formerly known as *Massicus raddei*) – also see the above consultation.
- *Ralstonia solanacearum* (bacterial wilt of potato)

Defra plant pest risk analysts are in the process of reviewing the scores of all listed (and formerly listed) pests on the UK Plant Health Risk Register in light of the new legislation on Plant

Health which came into force in December 2019. See 'Risk Register News' on our home page for more details.

They are also in the process of adding more hosts to many of the pests on the UK Plant Health Risk Register. For more details see ['Risk Register News'](#) on the home page.

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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