



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.28: June 2020

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- Update on the national measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* and Canker stain of Plane
- Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus update
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals, forestry and fruit
- New Plant Pest factsheet – pest and diseases of maize
- Pest and diseases added to the Plant Health Risk Register

Update on National measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* and Canker stain of Plane

On Tuesday 21st April 2020 new legislation came into force against *Xylella fastidiosa*, Emerald ash borer, Canker stain of plane and Elm yellows. The new [legislation is summarised here](#) with further details [provided in an annex](#). Plant genera / species covered in the new regulation against *X. fastidiosa* are: almond, Coffea, lavender, Nerium oleander, Polygala myrtifolia, olive and rosemary.

Since the new measures were introduced and as required under the EU Plant Health Regulation, the European Commission has carried out a review of regulations introduced by Defra, including requirements on *Xylella* and plane canker.

An Implementing Act has been published with their conclusions, including that the Defra regulations should be amended in relation to these pests.

The UK disagrees with the conclusions and are disappointed that the opportunity has not been taken to extend the UK measures across the EU, providing enhanced protections for the EU's member states.

The biosecurity threat regarding these pests has not changed and therefore the reason for introducing stronger requirements has not changed.

We continue to encourage stakeholders and industry to employ risk management practices which maintain the robust protection and assurance that the Defra regulations provide. APHA and the Devolved Administrations will continue to carry out intensive inspections of imported plants, taking account of risk factors such as origin, presence of insect vectors, suspect symptoms etc.

The implications of a confirmed finding of *Xylella* are substantial, including felling of plants within a 100m radius and trade restrictions across a 5km radius. A finding of plane canker would also cause substantial impacts.

We will keep the need for any further actions under review in light of the ongoing risk situation, including developments in the EU and the results of our own surveillance.

If you receive high risk host plants from suppliers in other countries, please speak to your local inspector about the implications of an outbreak of *X. fastidiosa*. Disease information you may find helpful:

- [Xylella fastidiosa](#)
- [Canker stain of Plane](#)

Note: the existing statutory requirements to notify APHA about the arrival of consignments of Olive, Plane and Elm from the EU remain in force. For full list of genera and how to notify see [tree and plant notifications into England and Wales from the EU](#).

Remember, all plants for planting must move with a plant passport that is of the correct format, content and attached correctly under SRSF, more details are on the [Defra plant health portal](#).

Update – Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, a notifiable disease

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

The outbreak site from 2019 has now been declared eradicated following measures that were put in place in 2019 which included an inspection and testing of the new crop this year.

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.

Ornamentals

- [Red palm weevil](#) is a very damaging pest of a wide range of palms, is not present in the UK and is notifiable.
- [Xylella fastidiosa fact sheet](#) and [information note](#) on where in the EU it is present.
- [Bemisia tabaci and poinsettias](#). Bt is a vector to many viruses and can infest many different crops.

Forestry

- [Dothistroma needle blight](#) present in UK, symptoms most apparent in June and July.
- [Pitch canker of pine](#) (*Fusarium circinatum*), reported in nurseries and forests in France and Italy, it is not currently known to be present in the UK.

Fruit

- [Eastern cherry fruit fly](#) damaging pest of *Prunus* fruit, with limited distribution in England.

New Plant Pest factsheet: maize

Emerging pests and disease of maize, some notifiable such as Tar Spot and Stewart's bacterial wilt, others are not notifiable such as Western Corn rootworm, read more on the [Defra plant health portal](#).

Pest and diseases added to the Plant Health Risk Register, May and June 2020

Defra risk analysts have recently added a number of pests to the Risk Register. All of these pests were added due to their listing in the new Plant Health legislation which came into effect in

December 2019. Each has a hyperlink to make accessing the information quicker and easier.

Six species of weevils affecting conifers:

- [Pissodes cibriani](#)
- [Pissodes fasciatus](#)
- [Pissodes nitidus](#)
- [Pissodes punctatus](#)
- [Pissodes yunnanensis](#)
- [Pissodes zitacurensis](#)

A species of fungus affecting conifers:

- [Coniferiporia sulphurascens](#)

Three pests which affect mostly Citrus and which are not considered to pose a particular threat to the UK:

- [Candidatus Liberibacter americanus](#) (a bacterium)
- [Elsinoe citricola](#) (a fungus)
- [Aleurocanthus citripertus](#) (a whitefly)

A number of viruses, all vectored by Bemisia tabaci (with some also being vectored by other plant-sucking insects) have been added to the Risk Register recently.

Three viruses mainly affecting tomato:

- [Tomato chocolate virus](#)
- [Tomato marchitez virus](#)
- [Tomato mild mottle virus](#)

Two viruses mainly affecting cucurbits:

- [Melon yellowing-associated virus](#)
- [Squash vein yellowing virus](#)

Two viruses mainly affecting sweet potato:

- [Sweet potato chlorotic stunt virus](#)
- [Sweet potato mild mottle virus](#)

Seven species of tortrix moths which feed on broadleaved trees and various shrubs have also recently been added to the Risk Register:

- [Acleris issikii](#)
- [Acleris robinsoniana](#)
- [Acleris semipurpurana](#)
- [Acleris senescens](#)
- [Acleris minuta](#)
- [Acleris nishidai](#)
- [Acleris nivisellana](#)

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of the risk register webpage, and please also ensure you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on.

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

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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