



Animal & Plant Health Agency

## **Plant Passporting Updates No.29: October 2020**

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- New UK plant passports start 1 January 2021
- Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus update
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals, forestry and edibles
- New Plant Pest factsheet – Granulate ambrosia beetle
- New SRSF info – seed potatoes and farm saved seed potatoes
- The Plant Health Risk Register and Plant Health Portal

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## **New UK Plant Passports from 1 January 2021**

The Plant Health Regulation (PHR) became applicable in the UK from 14 December 2019, introducing widespread changes to the UK's plant passport regime. This EU legislation has continued to apply to the UK during the transition period which ends on 31 December 2020.

From 1 January 2021, the UK plant passport regime will change to reflect post-transition period plant health regulation. Summary of PP changes are:

- no flag
- 'UK' in front of the word 'plant passport'

- Protected zones (PZ) will cease and be replaced with Pest Free Areas (PFA) an internationally recognised approach
- Country of origin broadly same as EU except to enhance bio-security, some high risk hosts of *Xylella fastidiosa* and plants of Plane can only be labelled 'GB' at part D on a plant passport one year post importation

See the [factsheet for more details](#) of what will be changing for Plant Passports (PP), including images of PP and what actions GB businesses need to take to be ready for 1 January. These changes apply to GB businesses involved in activities such as: the production, manufacture and supply of plants, seeds, timber and plant products.

From 1 January 2021:

- UK PPs cannot be attached in the EU and EU PPs cannot be attached in GB.
- An operator in the EU will not be able to issue a UK PP because they will not be authorised to do so under the GB Plant Health Regime.
- A PP is not just a traceability document, but attests that the plants covered by that PP have met the plant health standards of GB.

If you are already authorised to issue PPs, you do not need a new authorisation to issue UK PPs. However, authorisations must be renewed on an annual basis, preferably [on line through edomero](#).

Contact your local inspector if you have questions or further guidance.

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# Update – new regulation against Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, a notifiable disease

New EU emergency measures (Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1191) came into force on the 15th August 2020 to prevent the introduction into and spread within the EU of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV). This replaces the previous emergency measures (Implementing Decision 2019/1615). This regulation represents a significant strengthening of the previous measures.

The regulation also sets out requirements for the import and movement of *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) and *Capsicum* spp. (pepper) into and within the EU, extending the scope of the regulation from just *Capsicum annuum* to all *Capsicum* spp. (other than resistant varieties).

Businesses impacted will need to take note of the requirements if they import and export from and to the EU. More details on ToBRFV on the [Plant Health Portal](#) and [factsheet](#).

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## Seasonal pests and diseases

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

Ornamentals

- [Bacterial spot and canker of Prunus](#) is a damaging notifiable disease of Prunus, affecting Cherry Laurel and many other stone fruit hosts.

- [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

- [Phytophthora ramorum](#) causes shoot, leaf and twig blight. The disease is present in the UK, with a wide host range including larch, heathland plants, rhododendron, camellia and viburnum. Statutory controls cover plants for planting in trade.
- [Canker stain of plane](#) (caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis platani*) is a serious notifiable disease of plane trees, which are important amenity trees in the parks and avenues of many European cities.
- [Pine processionary moth](#) (PPM) is a serious pest of pine trees in Europe. The moth larvae (caterpillars) feed on pine needles and defoliate trees, which reduces tree growth and timber production. Large numbers of larvae can cause severe damage. PPM is notifiable and not present in the UK. Our climate is favourable to PPM and presence of suitable host trees in the south of Britain suggests that PPM might be able to establish breeding populations in southern parts of England.

## Edibles

- [Epitrix potato flea beetles](#) are a notifiable pest that pose a serious threat to potato production in the UK. Potato tubers, or soil attached to the tubers, could carry the pest (as pupae, adults or possibly larvae) over long distances. Epitrix is present in Portugal and Spain.
- [Pepper weevil](#) *Anthonomus eugenii* is a notifiable economically damaging pest of *Capsicum annum* (sweet

pepper) and *Capsicum frutescens* (chilli peppers), but will also damage other solanaceous hosts including *Solanum melongena* (aubergine). The adults are reported to feed on a range of other Solanaceae, including potato, tomato, *Petunia*, *Nicotiana*, *Physalis* and *Datura*.

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## **New Plant Pest factsheet – bark beetle**

The [Granulate ambrosia beetle](#) is a pest of woody plants, broadleaved, ornamental and fruit trees. The beetle is present in parts of Europe, but not the UK.

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## **New SRSF information – potatoes**

Defra have issued guidance on plant passporting requirements for farm saved seed potatoes and seed potatoes. To find out about what you must do visit the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

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## **The Plant Health Risk Register and Plant Health Portal**

Please take a bit of time to look at the Defra [Plant Health Risk Register](#) to help you understand and assess the risks of pests and disease when making your buying decisions, and potential impacts upon your business if there was a quarantine pest of disease outbreak. You can download the register then you can search for example by host, pest or distribution etc.

The [Plant Health Portal](#) has wealth of information, consultations, pest and disease factsheets, contingency plans and latest plant health news.

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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](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk) or 0300 100 0313).

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