



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Plant Health: Plant Passporting Updates

Number 3, February 2016

Welcome to the third update to help keep your business aware of the latest changes in plant health. Following the last update in December on *Xylella fastidiosa*, there is now more information available, so please read on. Editions 1 and 2 of the newsletter also provide more background on the disease.

If you have questions, please speak to your local inspector.

Kind regards,
Edward Birchall,
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

New measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*

The EU Plant Health Standing Committee on Tuesday 24 November voted in favour to implement new measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* (*X. fastidiosa*), a devastating bacterial disease spread by sucking insect vectors. The disease affects a large host range and is now present in parts of southern Italy, Corsica and limited parts of mainland France.



Example of *X. fastidiosa* on
Cherry

Here in the UK, we shall be conducting official surveys for *X. fastidiosa* and the PHSI will be working with businesses to be registered and authorised to comply with the new plant passporting requirements, which require that movements of all 'host plants' across the EU must be accompanied by a plant passport, down to the retail sale stage. A list of the genera/species that are 'host plants' is below. The list will change over time as new hosts are confirmed and added to the Commission's database.

Details on the new measures against *X. fastidiosa*

To help industry understand the implications, we have produced a plant health guidance document '*X. fastidiosa* implications for the nursery trade' which you can see on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please take time to read it and view the list of host plants that must now be plant

passported on the [European Commission](#) website.

As mentioned in December's update, the new EU Decision 2015/2417 came in and took effect on 17 December 2015 and it amended Emergency Decision (2015/789/EU) which sets out measures to detect *X. fastidiosa* and to take certain actions in response to findings.

Details on the disease are available in the [Defra fact sheet on *X. fastidiosa*](#).

The [Forestry Commission](#) and the [European Commission](#) websites are also helpful sources of further information.

List of 'host plants' as of 3 February 2016 (latest from EU)

The UK Plant Health Services include *X. fastidiosa* in their surveillance programmes of plants imported from outside the EU, those being moved within the EU and those being grown in the wider environment. Those in the industry are also urged to remain vigilant and to source material carefully.

***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. multiplex**

Acer pseudoplatanus
Artemisia arborescens
Asparagus acutifolius
Cistus monspeliensis
Cistus salviifolius
Coronilla valentina
Genista x spachiana (syn. *Cytisus racemosus*)
Genista ephedroides
Hebe species
Lavandula angustifolia
Lavandula dentata
Lavandula stoechas
Myrtus communis
Pelargonium graveolens
Polygala myrtifolia
Prunus cerasifera
Quercus suber
Rosa floribunda
Rosmarinus officinalis
Spartium junceum

Host plants found to be susceptible to several subspecies of *Xylella fastidiosa*

Coffea species

***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. pauca**

Acacia saligna
Asparagus acutifolius
Catharanthus species
Cistus creticus
Dodonaea viscosa
Euphorbia terracina
Grevillea juniperina
Laurus nobilis
Lavandula angustifolia
Myoporum insulare
Myrtus communis
Nerium oleander
Olea europaea
Polygala myrtifolia
Prunus avium
Prunus dulcis
Rhamnus alaternus
Rosmarinus officinalis
Spartium junceum
Vinca species
Westringia fruticosa
Westringia glabra

Next steps

- Please talk to your local Plant Health inspector about *X. fastidiosa* and if any changes are needed to your plant passport authorisation in the coming months
- Check the genera you grow to see if they are in the above list
- Familiarise yourself with *X. fastidiosa*, use the fact sheet as a guide to check your plants for symptoms and notify your local Plant Health Inspector if you suspect the disease
- Please read the guidance on *X. fastidiosa* implications for the nursery trade on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Other Plant Passporting news: New protected zones

Defra have applied to the EU Commission for four new protected zones to help safeguard the UK.

1. Bacterial shothole of Prunus (*Xanthomonas arboricola pv pruni*)

A Defra fact sheet is available at [Fera website](#).



Bacterial shot hole of prunus

2. Elm Yellows Phytoplasma (*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*)

Further information on Elm Yellows is available on the [Forestry Commission website](#).



Elm Yellows

3. Palm borer (*Paysandisia archon*)

A fact sheet can be found on the [Fera website](#).



Palm borer



Paysandisia archon cocoon within a gallery © insectarium virtual Adult - courtesy Fera factsheet

4. Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea pitycampa*)

More details can be found on the [Forestry Commission website](#).



Picture courtesy INRA of Thaumetopoea pitycampa larval nest © IZRF INRA Orleans

All these cases will be assessed by the EU Commission to determine if the UK can be granted PZ status.

Certain temporary Protection Zones (on oak processionary moth, plane wilt and oriental chestnut gall wasp) expire in April 2016 and a review is underway at EU level about their continuation.

More information

There is more information on *X. fastidiosa* and other pests and diseases at the following sources:

- [Defra Plant Health risk register](#)

- [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\)](#)
- [EPPO photos](#)
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Defra fact sheet on *X. fastidiosa*](#)
- [The current EU Decision 2015/789](#) amended by the [new Decision](#).



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Animal and Plant Health Agency

Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

Room 10GA02/04, The National Agri-food Innovation Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

Telephone: 01904 405138

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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