



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.30: November 2020

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- Update on UK plant passporting starts 1st January 2021
- Update on temporary Protected Zone Codes
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals, forestry and fruit
- New Plant Pest alerts – on beech and grape
- Plant Healthy E-Learning Modules
- Plant Health Risk Register and Plant Health Portal October Updates

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
- add 'UK' in front of the word 'plant passport'

- Protected zones (PZ) will cease and PZ pests will either become GB quarantine pests (absent throughout GB) or Pest Free Areas (PFA) pests (absent in only part of GB); this is an internationally recognised approach
- Country of origin requirements broadly same as the EU's 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. They can still be moved in the first year after import on a PP with the original country of origin in Part D

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:

- EU PPs cannot be attached in GB.
- For the first 6 months of 2021 UK PPs may be affixed in EU member states, this is not the same as issuance.
- 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.

For the first 6 months of 2021, we will allow UK PPs to be affixed in an EU member state. This approach will be reviewed after 6 months. Those UK PPs should be in the correct format (outlined in Section 1 and Annex I of this factsheet) and should be

attached correctly. Guidance on attachment is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and our [Plant Health Portal](#).

However, it should be noted that this extends only to the act of affixing a UK PP. EU operators will not be authorised to issue UK PPs. This means that it will be the GB operator who is responsible for the First Place of Destination of the relevant consignment who will need to be authorised to issue those plant passports and would be audited under the plant passport regime. It is also the GB operator's registration number that will go in Part B of the UK PP.

The UK PPs will have no legal status until they reach that First Place of Destination in GB. Non-compliances will be the responsibility of the GB operator and may prevent plants from being able to move on from the First Place of Destination.

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.

Update – Temporary Protected Zone (PZ) Codes

Some PZ's that are temporary, such as *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv *pruni* (to prevent bacterial spot and canker of *Prunus* ([see factsheets](#))), have been extended to 31 Dec 2020 by the European Commission and must continue to be met to help protect the UK's bio-security.

All current PZ are on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). PZ for the UK will cease on 31 December 2020 and be replaced by Pest Free Areas (PFA), as UK will have ended the exit transition period from the EU.

Seasonal pests and diseases

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

Ornamentals

- [Polyphagous spider mite](#) (*Tetranychus mexicanus*) could be a risk for glasshouse crops in the UK. The mite has around 100 hosts (in 44 plant families). Hosts of concern include Citrus spp., *Malus domestica*, *Vitis vinifera*, as well as many ornamentals. The damage seen by this mite is similar to other spider mites
- [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.
- [Rose rosette disease \(RRD\)](#) is a damaging and often fatal condition affecting *Rosa* species, caused when the host plant is infected with rose rosette virus (RRV). The virus is easily spread during the grafting process

Forestry

- [Pine tortoise scale](#) is a pest of pine reported from Europe in Italy for the first time in 2015. It is contributing to the decline and mortality of stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) in and around Naples, Campania region, particularly in urban areas.
- [Red turpentine beetle](#) is native to North America but has made a continental leap to China via traded unprocessed

logs. In China it has spread voraciously causing major damage to Pinus. The beetle can be found on many pine species (Pinus spp.) and occasionally on spruce (Picea spp.) and larch (Larix spp.)

- [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 eugeni* is a notifiable economically damaging pest of *Capsicum annuum* (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*.

Plant Pest alerts on the plant health portal

- [Grape phylloxera](#) is a small sap sucking insect that is related to aphids' and is one of the most important pests of grapevine in Europe.
- [Petraikia liobae](#) is a newly identified leaf pathogen of beech (Fagus spp.) in Europe. It has also been reported on hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) in heavily infested areas.

Plant Healthy E-Learning Modules

The Plant Health Alliance has launched five [Plant Healthy online training modules](#) covering a range of subjects fundamental to the management of plant health and biosecurity in the UK.

Starting with regulations and controls, the modules progress to cover how to conduct a Pest Risk Analysis for a horticultural business or organisation's site. A site can be a nursery, garden center, landscapers or arborist's yard, or a public garden. Also covered are the types of harmful organisms and how they spread. Information is provided on good plant biosecurity practice in relation to the [Plant Health Management Standard](#), which is the voluntary Standard the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme is based upon.

Pest and diseases added to the Plant Health Risk Register, October 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.

Pests recently added to the Risk Register:

- [Petraikia liobae](#) – a fungal pathogen that grows on beech leaves, recently identified in a few European countries.

Seven species of Choristoneura tortricid moths. The genus is found across Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.

Six conifer pests:

- [Choristoneura biennis](#)
 - [Choristoneura carnana](#)
 - [Choristoneura lambertiana](#)
 - [Choristoneura orae](#)
 - [Choristoneura pinus pinus](#)
 - [Choristoneura retiniana](#)
- One species which feeds on deciduous trees and shrubs:
- [Choristoneura parallela](#)

Three species of Verticillium, a genus of fungal pathogens (RR record reviewed or new entry), all are Regulated Non Quarantine Pests (RNQPs):

- [Verticillium albo-atrum](#) (sensu stricto) (regulated on specified fruit and nut trees)
- [Verticillium dahliae](#) (regulated on a number of crops)
- [Verticillium nonalfalfae](#) (regulated on hops)

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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