



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.32: March 2021

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- UK plant passport regime started on 1st January 2021
- Plant varieties and seeds
- Growing Media and AD Guidance for Exports to the EU
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals and edibles
- Plant Health Risk Register Updates
- Pest Alert – stem die back of hazel

The UK Plant Passport regime started on 1st January 2021

From 1 January 2021, the UK plant passport regime came into force. Summary of plant passport changes are:

- No flag.
- Add '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.
- New to the UK plant passport is part E, this relates to goods from Northern Ireland.

See the [factsheet v8](#) for more details of Plant Passports (PP), including images of PP, what actions GB businesses need to have done and Pest Free Areas (PFAs) for example on Fire Blight (*Erwinia amylovora*), only Jersey has Fire Blight PFA status now, Guernsey PFA has ceased. These changes apply to GB businesses involved in activities such as: the production, manufacture and supply of plants, seeds, timber and plant products. 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.

In consultation with trade, Defra has extended to June 2022 the allowance to attach UK PPs in EU member states. 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](#) and under SRSF on the [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, because they will not be authorised to do so under the GB Plant Health Regime. 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.

Please remember that authorisations must be renewed on an annual basis, preferably on line [through edomero](#).

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

Plant varieties and seeds

As with changes to the plant passport regime, please see the following [EU Exit guidance](#) from Defra plant varieties and seeds addressing plant variety rights, marketing of seed and other propagating material and DUS testing following the end of the transition period.

Growing Media and requirements for Exports to the EU

Businesses may have moved plant material under the plant passport regime to the EU under the single market. Growing media attached to or associated with plants must meet the EU's third country import requirements as of 1st January 2021, details are on the [plant health portal Growing Media](#). There are several options that are available to exporters to enable them to meet these requirements, as well as some treatment methods for certain options. Exporters should still check with the importing Member State prior to export to ensure that their goods have met the below requirements.

Seasonal pests and diseases

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

Ornamentals:

- *Xylella fastidiosa* is a bacterial disease with many sub species and strains not known to occur in the UK. See the [Xylella fastidiosa Plant Pest Factsheet](#) and [Consumer pest alert](#) on where in the EU it is present. It is notifiable in the UK.

On Thursday 11th February 2021 Defra introduced legislation which implements new measures for *Xylella* following the consultation and [Defra's response](#). The new legislation is summarised in [this letter](#) with further details provided in an [annex](#). The list of *Xylella* hosts is found in [Table 5](#). Please refer to this [Q&A document](#) for more information.

These new measures came into force on 4th March 2021.

- The [Palm borer](#) (*Paysandisia archon*) is a moth and a serious threat to many palm species
- [Red Palm weevil](#) (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) is a highly invasive pest of palms. Both are notifiable on the UK.

Edibles:

- [Colorado potato beetle](#) is a damaging notifiable quarantine pest in the UK, but can hitch hike and move around on goods from the EU.
- [Tomato Potato Psyllid](#) is a highly destructive pest of potato and a vector of the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*, which causes '[Zebra Chip](#)' disease in potato tubers and can render crops unmarketable.

Pest and diseases added or reviewed on the Plant Health Risk Register, February 2021

Defra risk analysts have recently made some additions and reviews to the Risk Register.

New to the Risk Register:

- [Fusarium agapanthi](#): fungal pest of Agapanthus, now found in the UK
- [Ostrinia furnacalis](#): Asian corn borer, moth pest of maize and other crops
- [Pseudomonas avellanae](#): stem dieback of hazel nut present in Europe
- [Pseudomonas savastanoi pv. savastanoi](#): bacterial canker of olive present in Europe
- [Tetraneura nigriabdominalis](#): rice root aphid, feeds on elm and grasses

Recently reviewed (though scores may not have changed):

- [Agrilus fleischeri](#): jewel beetle pest of poplar native to East Asia
- [Pseudaulacaspis pentagona](#): white peach scale established in parts of Great Britain
- [Tetropium fuscum](#): brown spruce longhorn established in parts of Great Britain
- [Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid](#): virus of tomatoes which has also been detected in ornamentals.

[Plant health Risk Register home page](#)

New Pest Alert

[Stem dieback of hazel](#) – *Pseudomonas avellanae* is a bacterial pathogen of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) present in Greece and Italy but absent from the UK. Early symptoms include wilts and

dieback of twigs. Branch cankers with associated bacterial oozing develop later leading to branch diebacks and plant death.

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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