



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.34: July 2021

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- Outbreaks of eight-toothed spruce bark beetle
- Upcoming Legislation in the Autumn
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals, forest trees and edibles & crops
- How to report a quarantine plant pest or disease
- Pests recently added to or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register – this to help you to protect your business

Forestry Commission acts on bark beetle tree

New breeding populations of the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) have been discovered in Kent and East Sussex. For details see [Forestry Commission acts on bark beetle tree pest](#).

Woodland managers, landowners, the forest industry and tree nurseries are being urged to remain vigilant after several new breeding populations of the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) were identified in Kent and East Sussex.

The UK Chief Plant Health Officer confirmed two breeding populations in two woodlands in Kent on 25 June and 1 July following routine Forestry Commission plant health surveillance activities. On 9 July, three further outbreaks were confirmed in Kent and East Sussex. Forestry Commission, Forest Research

and the Animal and Plant Health Agency will continue surveillance in the local areas, and the Forestry Commission are overseeing the required eradication measures.

- [Information sheet on Ips typographus](#)
- [Symptoms Guide for Ips typographus](#)

Upcoming Legislation in the Autumn

Defra, Scottish and Welsh Governments are proposing to introduce legislation in October 2021 (coming into force on 2nd December 2021) which introduces specific import requirements for:

- *Prodiplosis longifila* (a gall midge pest of tomatoes, cucumber, asparagus and other species)
- *Agrilus fleischeri* (beetle pest of poplar and willow), following a Pest Risk Analysis and a [consultation](#).
- *Thekopsora minima* (rust pathogen of blueberry and other *Vaccinium* species). A [consultation on this approach](#) is currently open for review.

In addition, government plans to:

- Extend the existing measures for *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald ash borer) to all third countries.
- Introduce a prohibition on plants of *Fraxinus* (ash) from countries where *A. planipennis* is known to occur (plants for planting of *Fraxinus* are currently subject to a temporary prohibition from all countries where *A. planipennis* is known to occur).

- Introduce a prohibition on the import of *Polymnia sonchifolia* (yacon, a tuberous vegetable) plants from entering Great Britain.
- Deregulate certain pests (Apricot latent virus, Aucuba mosaic agent and blackcurrant yellows agent, *Epidiaspis leperii*, *Heterodera fici*, *Pseudomonas savastanoi* pv. *savastanoi*) that are not considered a risk to GB.

These pest measures should come into force in December 2021. Please refer to the [Q&A document](#) for more information (or further information regarding the [deregulatory measures](#)).

Finally, we propose to establish a risk-targeted inspection system in GB, to allow for lower levels of checks of regulated plant health goods (which will apply to both EU and the rest of the world). A [consultation on this approach](#) is currently open for review. Please refer to the [Q&A document](#) for more information

Seasonal pests and diseases

Help prevent these pests and disease from entering and being spread in the UK, we have included information on various pest threats below:

Ornamentals

- [Red Necked Longhorn beetle](#) is a non-native destructive wood boring beetle of *Prunus*. Adults emerge in summer. More details in [Aromia bungii Factsheet](#).
- [Citrus Longhorn beetle](#) is a non-native pest that is extremely damaging to a wide range of trees and shrubs with adults emerging in summer.
- [Popillia japonica](#) is a non-native chafer beetle extremely damaging pest of many fruit trees, ornamental plants, shrubs,

turf and be environmentally damaging. The beetle originates from Japan and is present in Italy.

Forest trees

- [P ramorum](#) view the practical guide for nursery stock and garden centre industry on Ramorum dieback. Phytophthora ramorum (Ramorum dieback) is present in Great Britain, but careful systems approaches can help limit it's spread in traded plants.
- [Oak Lace bug](#) is a non-native to the UK, but present in some EU member states. The pest feeds on leaves and causes yellowing, browning and premature leaf drop.

Edibles & Crops

- [Epitrix-potato-flea-beetle](#) is a very damaging pest of potato. Epitrix is present in Portugal and Spain, but not present in the UK and is notifiable.
- [Emerging pests of maize](#), includes notifiable and non-notifiable pests and diseases.
- [Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus](#) is a damaging notifiable disease of tomato and pepper crops spread by contact and seed transmission.

Reporting a pest/disease

Details of plant health controls and where to report a pest/disease or any other non-native plant pest can be found here and reported to the relevant authority below:

England & Wales (Plant Health Controls):

[Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\)](#)

Contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector or the PHSI Headquarters, Sand Hutton, York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

In Scotland (Horticulture, Plant Health, Potatoes and Seeds):

[The Scottish Government](#)

Contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing

Unit: hort.marketing@gov.scot

In Northern Ireland (Plant and Tree Health):

[Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

Contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

For trees the Forestry Commission

Tree pests and diseases – [Tree Alert](#)

Pests recently added to or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register

Recently added:

- [Apricot latent virus](#) – an asymptomatic virus of apricot first discovered in Eastern Europe
- [Agrilus mali](#) – apple buprestid, pest of apple species in China

- [Cerroneuroterus lanuginosus](#) – an oak gall-forming cynipid wasp found in parts of Europe, but not known to be present in the UK
- [Eotetranychus sexmaculatus](#) – six-spotted spider mite, a polyphagous pest of crops including grapevine
- [Epidiaspis leperii](#) – European pear scale, found in parts of Europe, but not known to be present in the UK
- [Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3](#) – one of the main causes of grapevine leafroll disease
- [Heterodera fici](#) – fig cyst nematode, restricted to fig species
- [Platypus apicalis](#) – pinhole boring beetle, an ambrosia beetle limited to New Zealand
- [Blackcurrant yellows agent](#) and Aucuba mosaic agent – Neither organism has a formally accepted name and the taxonomy of both is very unclear

Reviewed:

- [Agrilus horni](#) – aspen root girdler, pest of poplar and aspen in North America
- [Xylella fastidiosa](#) – a very polyphagous plant bacterium
- [Dendroctonus valens](#) – red turpentine beetle
- [Elasmopalpus lignosellus](#) – lesser cornstalk borer
- [Potato virus Y \(non-European isolates\)](#) – a virus of potatoes (and to a lesser extent, other solanaceous crops) present in the UK, but non-European isolates are regulated
- [Tomato mottle mosaic virus](#) – a virus of tomatoes and peppers
- [Watermelon silver mottle orthospovirus](#) – a virus found in parts of Asia mainly affecting melons

Meloidogyne species (root-knot nematodes) recently added to or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register:

Recently added:

- [Meloidogyne arenaria](#) – peanut root-knot nematode, a pest of a wide-range of ornamentals and soft fruits under glass
- [Meloidogyne javanica](#) – Javanese root-knot nematode, also a pest of a wide-range of ornamentals and soft fruits under glass

Full review:

- [Meloidogyne enterolobii](#) – a nematode found outdoors in Europe for the first time, the UK has had numerous interceptions of this pest
- [Meloidogyne mali](#) – apple root-knot nematode, found causing root galls to elm in the UK for the first time

Minor review:

- [Meloidogyne chitwoodi](#)
- [Meloidogyne ethiopica](#)
- [Meloidogyne fallax](#)
- [Meloidogyne minor](#)

Other *Meloidogyne* spp. also had their entries reviewed, but no changes were made.

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them [via the feedback box](#) on the bottom of the webpage, and please also ensure you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on as we are not told which page the comment was made from.

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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