



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.35: October 2021

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

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- Upcoming Legislation in Spring 2022
- Attaching UK plant passports in the EU – reminder
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- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamentals, forest trees and edibles
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- Pests recently added to or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register – use this to help you to protect your business

Consultation for the Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain

Consultation dates: Tuesday 21st September – Tuesday 30th November

Defra want to know your views on how government, the plant industry, and the public can help improve plant biosecurity, and protect Great Britain from the risks of harmful plant pests and diseases.

Our plants are vital to our survival, but they are under threat from pests and diseases, and we need your help to protect them. Government and the plant sector are already addressing these threats, but we all play a role in keeping our plants healthy by practicing good biosecurity.

Specifically, we are seeking your views on:

- the effectiveness of our current plant and tree health regulations
- ways industry and government can work together to support a biosecure plant supply chain which ensures the safe sourcing of planting stock
- how we enhance the nations technical capability, using innovative science and technology to keep pace with emerging threats and ensure preparedness for the future
- tougher action to protect against biosecurity risks associated with trees susceptible to high-risk pests and diseases

For more details and comment, then please access via [Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain](#)

Upcoming Legislation in Spring 2022

In February 2022 Defra will introduce GB-wide measures for [Scolytus morawitzi](#) and [Polygraphus proximus](#) following a Pest Risk Analysis and a consultation for each pest (read more on these and other pests and diseases on the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#)). The changes will also adjust existing requirements for other pests, such as the Oak Processionary Moth.

Scolytus morawitzi (Morawitz's bark beetle) is a beetle pest of larch, from Russia and Mongolia, regulation of larch mitigates risk

to a certain extent, but this still presents a potential risk as unsquared wood is not controlled within Europe and the pest is present in the European part of Russia.

Polygraphus proximus (Sakhalin fir bark beetle) is a beetle pest of firs spreading in Russia causing damage particularly outside its native range. Risk from spread from European Russia.

Strengthened requirements should be considered on the basis of an EPPO PRA.

Attaching UK Plant Passports in the EU – reminder

Until 30th June 2022, Defra will allow UK PPs to be attached in an EU member state. This approach will be subject to ongoing review to monitor levels of non-compliance and any resulting biosecurity risk. Those UK PPs should be in the correct format ([outlined in Section 1 and Annex I of the factsheet](#)) and should be attached correctly. Guidance on attachment is [available on gov.uk](#).

Great Britain operates a UK Plant Passport system for internal movements of plants both within and between GB and the Crown Dependencies. Northern Ireland continues to use the EU Plant Passport system (in line with the Northern Ireland Protocol), and EU Plant Passports apply for movements of Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (QNIGs) from NI to GB. Phytosanitary certificates are required when moving goods from GB to NI.

EU plant passports from EU member states other than Northern Ireland are not legally valid in Great Britain.

Plant Passporting e-learning module

The [Plant Passporting e-learning module](#) will help professional operators who wish to become authorised, or who are already authorised to issue Plant Passports, to maintain compliance with this system, helping to protect industry and the wider environment from harmful plant pests and diseases.

Contingency Plans published for *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Popillia japonica* (Japanese beetle)

An updated contingency plan regarding *Xylella fastidiosa* and a new contingency plan for *Popillia japonica* ([Japanese beetle](#)) have been published and are available on the [Defra plant health portal](#).

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

- [Bacterial spot and canker](#) is a notifiable disease of *Prunus*. Although potentially damaging on all *Prunus* species, the most severely affected stone fruit hosts are peach, apricot and plum. The bacterium causes leaf spots and shot-holing of leaves, spotting of fruit and stem cankers. The disease is present in the EU but not GB and is notifiable. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.
- [Bemisia tabaci](#) (Tobacco or silver leaf whitefly) is one of the most economically important agricultural and horticultural pests in the world, due in part to its adaptability, extreme host plant range and capacity to vector more than a 110 plant pathogenic viruses. The pest is present in the EU but not GB and is notifiable. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.
- [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, but not GB and is notifiable. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.

Forest trees

The [Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle](#) (*Ips typographus*) is considered a serious pest on spruce in Europe and has recently been found in the wider environment in England as part of routine plant health surveillance activity. See [gov.uk for more details](#) on the pest, symptoms and legal obligations.

Edibles

- The [Plum weevil](#), *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, is native to North America where it is found in areas with a temperate climate east of the Rocky Mountains. A pest of stone, pome and soft fruit, (e.g. apple, pear, strawberry and quince) which can cause high levels of damage in orchards. The weevil will also feed on a range of wild plants (e.g. hawthorn). It was identified in 2019 as a priority pest by the EU and has potential to establish within the UK. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.
 - The [Apple maggot fly](#), *Rhagoletis pomonella*, is an important pest of cultivated apples in North America and a regulated organism (IAI EU listed). Adult flies leave oviposition punctures on the surface of the fruit, which appear sunken and discoloured around the outside. The main damage is caused by the larvae, which burrow into the flesh of the fruit and leave irregular tunnels, which turn brown and fruit become distorted. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.
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Updated pest factsheets

- [Tilletia indica](#) (Karnal bunt) – which has been updated in line with the new contingency plan.
- [Meloidogyne fallax](#) – which has been updated to provide more detail on the changes made to the legislation regarding this pest.

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

Pests recently added to the risk register:

Pests of plants mainly grown for fruit in the UK:

- [Blueberry mosaic associated ophiovirus](#), a pest of cultivated blueberries
- [Rhizoctonia fragariae](#), a pest mainly of strawberries
- [Apple rough skin agent](#), a pest of apple trees

Pests of plants mainly grown as ornamentals in the UK:

- [Xanthomonas campestris pv. fici](#), affecting fig trees
- [Olive leaf yellowing associated virus](#)
- [Olive vein yellowing associated virus](#)
- [Olive yellow mottling and decline associated virus](#)

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of the [Risk Register web page](#), 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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