Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Health: Plant Passporting Updates

Number 5, December 2016

Welcome to this latest update on plant passporting and new quarantine pests and diseases. Your authorisation is now emailed to you, so please ensure the person responsible reviews it and that the email address you supplied to the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) is up-to-date.
If you have questions, please speak to your local inspector.
Kind regards,
Edward Birchall,
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa - what's new?

As mentioned in previous updates, *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* occurs in France and *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *pauca* occurs in Italy. Movements of all EU listed 'host plants' within Member States must be accompanied by a plant passport, down to the retail sale stage. It will change over time as new hosts are confirmed and added to the European Commission database.
The new hosts added are:

- *Acacia dealbata* as found in France infected with *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*
- *Pelargonium x fragrans* found in Italy infected with *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca.*

Example of *X. fastidiosa* on Nerium oleander in Italy

In Germany a new strain to Europe has been detected, called *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa.* As of October, it has been determined to be in a single *Nerium oleander* plant and Germany has applied the control conditions including inspection of the outbreak area and surveillance. No suspect plants have been sent to other EU Member States.
In November, Spain notified the EU Commission it had detected *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa* in three cherry trees at a garden centre on the island of Mallorca following an inspection. Spain is conducting further inspection activity and applying the control measures.

Details of the new measures against *X. fastidiosa*

To help industry understand the implications, we have produced a plant health

guidance document '*X. fastidiosa* implications for importers and users of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants' which you can see on GOV.UK, along with list of hosts, information on demarcated (infected) areas with maps, and a consolidated list used for applying for authorisation to issue plant passports for hosts of *X. fastidiosa.* 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'

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. Details of demarcated areas and maps can be seen on GOV.UK.

***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. multiplex**

Acacia dealbata
Acer pseudoplatanus
Artemisia arborescens
Asparagus acutifolius
Calicotome villosa
Cistus monspeliensis
Cistus salviifolius
Coronilla valentina
Cytisus scoparius
Genista x spachiana
Genista corsica
Genista ephedroides
Hebe species
Helichrysum italicum
Lavandula angustifolia
Lavandula dentata
Lavandula stoechas
Lavandula x allardii
Metrosideros excelsa
Myrtus communis
Pelargonium graveolens
Phagnalon saxatile
Polygala myrtifolia
Prunus cerasifera
Quercus suber
Rosa floribunda
Rosmarinus officinalis
Spartium junceum

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa

Nerium oleander
Prunus avium
Rosmarinus officinalis

***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. pauca**

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

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

Coffea species

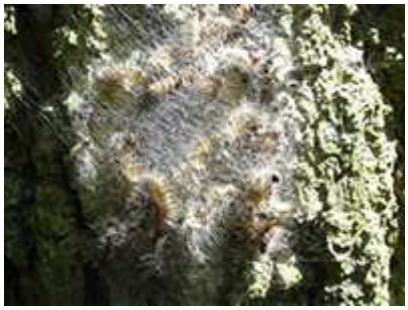
Protected Zones

The UK has several protected zones (PZ) which help protect us from various pests and diseases, we have listed some of them below. A full list of ZP codes can be found in table format in the relevant EU legislation.

Tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*)

There have been many interceptions so far in 2016 often on finished plants of *Nerium oleander*, Mandevilla, Hibiscus and Dipladenia. These plants are not currently subject to plant passporting, so please make sure you source plants carefully to avoid having to destroy substantial numbers of infested plants or risk having an outbreak at your premises. For more details on *Bemisia tabaci* see the Fera website.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)



An outbreak of OPM (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)was first discovered in west London in 2006 on oak trees. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves defoliating the tree. Since 2006, actions have been taken by the Forestry Commission against OPM and in 2014, parts of London were declared infested. The area outside the infested zone is the PZ, covering the rest of the UK. OPM must not be moved into the PZ, so make sure you inspect and check oak you receive or dispatch to ensure it is free from OPM.

You should not touch the caterpillars or nests as the hairs can cause irritation to humans and animals. Anyone who suspects OPM must notify their local PHSI inspector or the Forestry Commission.

Additional details on OPM can be found on the Forestry Commission website along with an OPM manual that you may find useful for husbandry and control.

Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*)

This is a serious pest of potato, present in the EU, but absent from the UK. Beetles can be imported as hitchhikers on non-host plant material, such as leafy vegetables, salad leaves, fresh herbs and grain or with potatoes from Europe. For more details, see the pest alert.

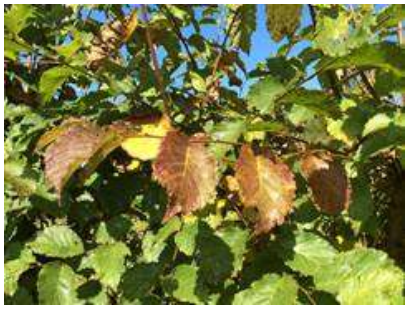
The following PZs are expected to come into full force by spring 2017

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

This disease damages the foliage of Prunus and UK has secured PZ status against the disease, following recurrent interceptions. The current position is that the PZ designations are in place, but the movement requirements for host plants need to be updated, which is expected in in early 2017. It is good that the industry are already thinking about requiring the inclusion of the new PZ code ZPb3 on plant passports, which will be a legal requirement once the new PZ movement requirements are in force. In the meantime, current movement and plant passport requirements continue to apply.
A fact sheet can be found on the Defra Plant Health risk register.

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

A Phytoplasma disease of Ulmus causing leaf yellowing or reddening, dwarfing and early leaf drop. Further information on Elm Yellows is available on the Forestry Commission website along with a pest alert.
Once the PZ movement requirements are in place, the PZ code to be included on plant passports will be ZPb01.

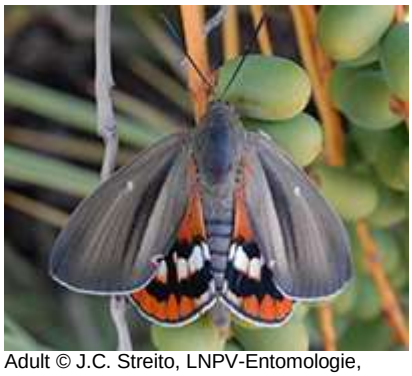


Palm borer (*Paysandisia archon*)

A *Paysandisia archon* cocoon within a gallery
© insectarium virtual

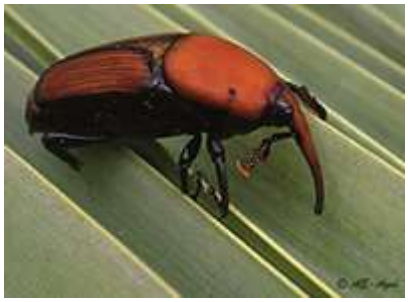
A pest of a large range of palm hosts including *Chamaerops humilis*, *Livistona chinensis*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *P. dactylifera* and *Trachycarpus fortune.*
More information on this pest and its hosts can be found in the fact sheet on the Defra Plant

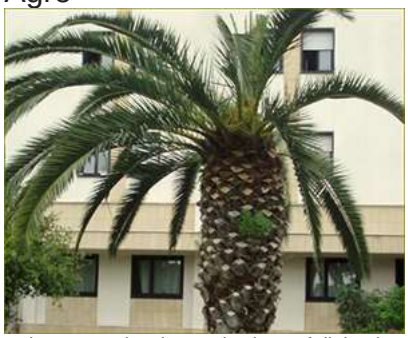
Health risk register.
Once the PZ movement requirements are in place, the PZ code to be included on plant passports will be ZPa14.1.


Adult © J.C. Streito, LNPV-Entomologie, Montpellier (France)

Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea pitycampa*)
Mainly a pest of Pinus and present in France, Italy, Portugal and Spain and some other EU member states. More details can be found on the Forestry Commission website.
Once the PZ movement requirements are in place, the PZ code to be included on plant passports will be ZPa15.1.

Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*)
A damaging pest of palms and the most important pest of date palm. Adult females can deposit between 200 to 300 eggs which develop into larval stages that can reach 50mm long and feed on the soft palm tissue.
The larvae eventually pupate and adults emerge, the life cycle taking about 4 months. Adults can be up to 42mm long and reddish brown in colour.
Symptoms can be difficult to detect early on in an infestation, but on palms are egg laying notches, uneven crown, wilting and yellowing. More details are in Plant pest fact sheet.
Once the PZ movement requirements are in place, the PZ code to be included on plant passports will be ZPa14.2.


Red Palm weevil adult © AE Agro


Palm crown showing early signs of dieback from weevil activity

Narcissus crops

A growing season inspection by the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) for freedom from stem and bulb eelworm *(Ditylenchus dipsaci)* is required for all those bulbs intended for plant passporting, including forced bulbs which may be recovered for re-planting.

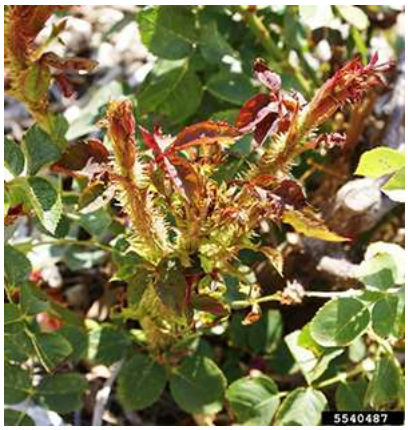
This is followed by a dry bulb inspection by the PHSI at the time of despatch to check for freedom from stem and bulb eelworm, soil freedom and a records audit.

Any stock found to be infested with stem and bulb eelworm is **not eligible** to be passported and cannot be offered for sale to commercial growers.

Symptoms of stem and bulb eelworm can be seen on the Defra fact sheet.

Other diseases

Rose rosette virus



Rose Rosette Virus is a very damaging disease of Rose in the USA and Canada. It is spread by a microscopic mite, which is absent from the UK, but both the mite and virus have the potential to be inadvertently imported on dormant rose propagating material from North America. The viruscauses proliferation of branches and leaves (which may appear bright red in colour), excessive thorn production, deformed buds and flowers and a lack of winter hardiness, which can lead to the death of the plants.

For more information, see the Defra fact sheet.

Bacterial brown rot affecting Rosa in The Netherlands

Since August 2014, the notifiable bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 1 (Brown rot) was found in The Netherlands at glasshouse companies

producing ornamental *Rosa* plants for cut flower production. The first finding was triggered following symptoms observed by the grower. Several *Rosa* stems showed black discoloration and necrosis, together with some chlorotic leaves. Additionally, wilting of several leaves was observed. No suspect rose plants were sent to the UK from The Netherlands.

Pictures and details can be found in the Defra Pest Alert.

Note: a different Race, Race 3 of *Ralstonia solanacearum*is the causal agent of potato brown rot in Europe.

Invoicing

The invoicing delays experienced earlier in the year have been resolved and normal invoicing has resumed. Thank you for your patience and if you are still being affected, please contact your local Plant Health inspector.

Next steps

- Please talk to your local Plant Health inspector about *X. fastidiosa* and if any changes are needed to your plant passport authorisation
- Use the Defra Plant Health Risk Register to review the plant species you buy or trade in, and where pests and diseases occur to help mitigate risks to your business
- Check your plants for symptoms and notify your local Plant Health Inspector if you suspect a quarantine pest or disease, or telephone PHSI HQ on 01904 405138. Alternatively, see GOV.UK for a list of APHA PHSI office locations.

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*

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