



In this update, you will find new information on *Xylella fastidiosa*, a disease affecting potatoes called Zebra Chip, and details on the new requirements to be met if you are marketing fruit plants.

In order to make sure you receive the latest information, please ensure that your 'spam' filters accept the plant passporting renewal and authorisations.

If you have questions, please speak to your local inspector.

Kind regards,
Edward Birchall,
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa - summary

New hosts added to the [European Commission](#) database that must move with a plant passport between Member States are:

- *Streptocarpus*
- *Erysimum*
- *Anthyllis hermanniae*
- *Chenopodium album*
- *Erigeron sumatrensis*
- *Erigeron bonariensis*
- *Heliotropium europaeum*



Symptoms of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* on *Lavandula x allardi*
(Photo courtesy: Agnès Poirier, NPPO France)

Outbreaks in other EU Member States

In southern Italy, *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *pauca* is infecting and killing large areas olive trees. Other plant species are also affected.

In France, *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* has continued to spread on the island of Corsica and there are now 20 outbreak sites in Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (PACA) (mainland southern France).

In Germany, *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa* was detected in 2016 in a glasshouse. At this outbreak, the disease has been confirmed on *Nerium oleander*, *Rosmarinus*, *Erysimum* and *Streptocarpus*.

Spain notified the EU Commission in late 2016 that it had detected *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa* on Mallorca. Since the initial outbreaks on Mallorca, Spain has also found *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*. Then in February, Spain notified the EU Commission that *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *pauca* had been found on Ibiza. Movements of susceptible plants from the Balearic region are banned.

Information sources on *X. fastidiosa*

On [GOV.UK](#) you can access the full host lists, information on current 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 also available in the [X. fastidiosa factsheet](#), plus the [Forestry Commission](#) and the [European Commission](#) websites also have helpful sources of further information.

List of 'host plants'

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex

Acacia dealbata
Acer pseudoplatanus
Anthyllis hermanniae
Artemisia arborescens
Asparagus acutifolius
Calicotome villosa
Cistus creticus
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
Prunus dulcis
Quercus suber
Rosa floribunda
Rosmarinus officinalis
Spartium junceum

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

Coffea species

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca

Acacia saligna
Asparagus acutifolius
Catharanthus species
Cistus creticus
Dodonaea viscosa
Eremophila maculata
Erigeron sumatrensis
Erigeron bonariensis
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

Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *Fastidiosa

Nerium oleander
Polygala myrtifolia
Prunus avium
Rosmarinus officinalis
Streptocarpus
Erysimum

Plant notifications: Importing trees and plants to England and Wales from EU

To help protect the UK from pests and diseases, if you're bringing certain types of trees, including potted plants and seeds, into England and Wales from the EU and Switzerland, you must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Thank you to those who have been notifying APHA and here is a brief reminder.

Some plants must also have a plant passport for trading in the EU as part of the [plant health controls](#). The notification requirements here are in addition to the plant passport scheme.

EU Plant and Tree notifications is a statutory scheme and where non-notified stock is found on a site, APHA can require action under statutory notice to re-export or destroy the consignment.

You must tell the APHA if you're bringing the following trees, plants and seeds into England and Wales:

- Oak
- Pine
- Elm
- Sweet Chestnut
- Plane
- Ash (currently prohibited)
- Prunus (e.g. cherry, peach, plum, laurel)

More details can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) along with information how to notify using the EU Plant and Tree Notification System.

Protected Zones - reminder

The UK has several protected zones (PZ) which help protect us from various pests and diseases, some of which are listed below. A full list of PZ codes can be found in table format in the relevant [EU legislation](#) - scroll down to Annex 1 and check the right hand column to see which Member States needs the PZ code.

Please make sure relevant species of plants from other EU Member States arrive free from the relevant quarantine pest and have a PZ plant passport.

Tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*)

There have been many interceptions 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 [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

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 the end of 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 early 2017. It is good that the industry is 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 Portal](#).

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 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 Portal](#).

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



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



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, with 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 the [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

Other diseases

Zebra chip on potato

Zebra chip is a very serious disease of potato in the Americas and New Zealand. It is caused by the bacterium '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' (Lso) which is spread very effectively by the tomato-potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*). The psyllid is absent from the EU.

In November 2016, symptoms of zebra chip were reported by Spain to be present in a small number of harvested potato crops.

For more information see the [Defra Pest Alert](#).



Leaf symptoms in potato. Note leaf curl and discoloration. Photo courtesy of Joe Munyaneza USDA/ARS

Sweet chestnut blight outbreaks

There have been outbreaks in England of Sweet chestnut blight, a plant disease caused by the ascomycete fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*.

Restrictions are put in place if the organism is found and following an outbreak of sweet chestnut blight in Devon, UK plant health authorities – the Forestry Commission and APHA - have imposed a prohibition on the movement of sweet chestnut material including plants, logs, branches, foliage and firewood out of or within, four



zones (three in Devon and one in Dorset) with a 5 kilometre (3.2 mile) radius from where sweet chestnut blight has been found. The same restrictions apply to oak within an area with a 1 kilometre (0.62 mile) radius inside these four zones.

More details can be found on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

Disease information on Chestnut Blight and symptoms can be found on the [Forestry Commission website](#).



Close up of Sweet Chestnut blight orange spore (top) and cracked bark on a Sweet Chestnut tree and cankered trunk (bottom).

New fruit plant marketing requirements

Growers who market fruit plants of *Fragaria*, *Ribes*, *Rubus*, *Vaccinium*, *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Prunus (amygdalus, armeniaca, avium, domestica, persica, salicina and cerasus)*, *Olea europaea*, *Citrus*, *Fortunella*, *Poncirus*, *Castanea sativa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ficus carica*, *Juglans regia* and *Pistacia vera* for propagation, or for the production of fruit plants or for the production of fruit, must now provide additional information on their supplier documents.



Photo of *Malus*, *Pyrus* and *Prunus* fruit

In addition to the information required for Plant Passports, the supplier document for all of the above genera must also state:

- 'CAC material' and
- the variety of the plants being marketed

This is part of new legislation relating to the marketing of fruit plants whereby all fruit plants must either be:

- from tested material and officially certified and maintained as such, or
- marketed as 'CAC material' (Conformitas Agraria Communitatis) and meet minimum health requirements

All CAC material must be of a listed variety and be practically free from certain [pests and diseases](#), and from defects such as injuries, discolouration, scar tissue and desiccation that will affect its' quality and usefulness. Suppliers are responsible for ensuring their plants meet these requirements and there is no additional inspection required by a PHSI Inspector.

You must ensure plants you receive also adhere to these requirements and you should contact your local PHSI Inspector if this is not the case.

If you intend to market a variety outside the UK you can check whether it is a listed variety on the [EU plant variety catalogue](#). If your variety is not listed, please contact your local PHSI inspector.

This is part of new legislation relating to the marketing and certification of fruit plants, and growers wishing to provide certified planting material instead of the minimum grade of CAC material can find out more on [GOV.UK](#).

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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