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If you have queries, please speak to your local inspector. If you have any questions about the consultations, email the relevant mailbox.

Kind regards,

Edward Birchall
Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa



In update No.7, we gave details on the current situation in the EU. At the end of June, Spain notified the EU Commission of the first finding on mainland Spain in an almond orchard near Alicante, of the *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex*.

Hosts are listed on the [European Commission](#) database and must move with a plant passport between Member States.

Here in the UK, to help industry make informed buying choices, Defra has produced a handy short summary of *Xylella* high risk hosts on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#). They are Olive (*Olea europaea*), *Nerium oleander*, Lavender, *Prunus* spp., *Polygala myrtifolia* and Rosemary.

Photo left: Leaf necrosis and scorch symptoms of *X. fastidiosa* on Olive in Italy 2016.

Information sources on *X. fastidiosa*

On [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), you can read the letter from Michael Gove, Secretary of State to the EU Commission, as well as the letter to industry from Professor Nicola Spence, Chief Plant Health Operator. You can also see a full list of the hosts, 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 on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#), plus the [Forestry Commission](#) and the [European Commission](#) websites also have helpful sources of further information.

Defra consultation on fees and charges

Further to communications by Defra to stakeholders and as a reminder, Defra has launched a [consultation](#) proposing changes to how we charge for a range of plant health services. The scope and nature of these services is not changing, and they will continue their important role of protecting the health of our crops, produce, trees and plants.

The consultation also seeks information about the impact of the proposals on businesses, including small or micro-businesses.

Please take time to look at the [consultation](#) and if you have any queries, views, or comments, then email the FeesandChargesConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk mailbox.

New EU Plant Passport format consultation - your chance to reply direct to the EU Commission

A new plant health EU regulation on protective measures against plant pests (2016/2031) came into force on 14 December 2016.

It won't apply until December 2019, but negotiations have begun to set out the detail of the new regulatory requirements, including new proposals on how plant passports will be formatted. Defra's plant health policy team has been regularly consulting the Plant Health Advisory Forum on the proposals that are being discussed with the European Commission and other Member States.

The European Commission is now consulting with stakeholders across the European Union on the proposals ahead of its adoption by the end of the year. This means that stakeholders and industry will have time to understand and prepare for the new format requirements in time for implementation by 14 December 2019. We **encourage you** to reply to the consultation. Click on the consultation link below and the second document will show you the plant passport format.

Specifically, there are a couple of points being proposed that you might like to comment on in response to the consultation – the Annex is attached to the proposal:

- Article 1 requires plant passports to comply with one of the proposed models in Part A, B, C or D of the Annex, depending on the type of plant passport being used for movement. We think that you might be concerned by the restriction to comply with one of the limited number of models described in the Annex. If you agree with this view, you should reply to the consultation describing why this would be problematic for you
- Point 7 of the Legend in the Annex requires, ‘...in the case of replacement of the plant passport, the registration number of the professional operator concerned who issued the initial plant passport or for whom the initial plant passport was issued by the competent authority...’ This requirement seems additional to the requirements of the plant health regulation and you might like to consider whether you support its inclusion or not.

You can reply to the [European Commission’s consultation online](#) from 29 September to 27 October 2017. Please take time to comment and include examples, impacts or suggestions.

New Protected Zones

As a follow up to the March 2017 update, the following PZs will come in to full force on 1 January 2018. The requirements are laid down in [Implementing Directive 2017/1279](#).

Note: if the correct plant passport and PZ code is not present with the plants or a quarantine pest is present, then statutory enforcement action will be taken, this may result in the plants being destroyed.

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

This disease damages the foliage of Prunus and the UK has secured PZ status against the disease, following recurrent interceptions. The PZ code to be included on plant passports is ZPb3. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

Elm Yellowings Phytoplasma (*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*)

The PZ code to be included on plant passports is ZPb01. See the [Forestry Commission pest alert](#).

Palm borer (*Paysandisia archon*)

A pest of a large range of palm hosts including *Chamaerops humilis*, *Livistona chinensis*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *P. dactylifera* and *Trachycarpus fortunei*. The

PZ code to be used on plant passports is ZPa14.1. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

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 PZ code to be included on plant passports will be ZPa14.2. See the fact sheet on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea pitycampae*)

Mainly a pest of Pinus and present in France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and other EU Member States. The PZ code to be included on plants passports is ZPa15.1. More details can be found on the [Forestry Commission website](#).

Other pests and diseases

Pitch canker of Pine (*Fusarium circinatum*). A disease of mainly Pinus species and not present in the UK. Please see [Forest Research information](#) and the [two-page Pest Alert](#) to help you understand this disease, the impacts it can have and to help you protect your business.

Latest additions to the Defra Plant Health Risk Register

We have been asked by people in the trade to provide quick updates and changes to the [UK Risk Register](#). These are the recent additions with quick links.

Pests of protected and outdoor crops:

- [Chilli veinal mottle virus](#) - a virus of Solanaceous plants
- [Phytophthora chrysanthemi](#) - a fungal disease of Chrysanthemums (in update 7)

Pests of broadleaved trees:

- [Xylella taiwanensis](#) - a close relative of *Xylella fastidiosa* found on Asian pear tree in Taiwan
- [Phyllonorycter issikii](#) - a leafminer moth of lime (*Tilia*) trees (in Update 7)
- [Agrilus fleischeri](#) - a beetle that attacks poplar trees
- [Phenacoccus fraxinus](#) - a mealybug of ash trees in China
- [Pepper vein yellows virus](#) - PeVYV, a virus that causes leaf yellowing, curling and brittleness in *Capsicum* species

- ['Candidatus Phytoplasma australiense'](#)- also known as strawberry lethal yellows or Australian grapevine yellows, a pathogen of strawberry, grapevine and *Cordyline* plants.

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of each webpage, and please ensure you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on.

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 01904 405138 or contact your local Plant Health inspector.

More information

There is more information on a wide range of pests and diseases at the following sources:

- [Defra Plant Health Risk Register](#)
- [European Plant Protection Organisation \(EPPO\)](#)
- [EPPO photos](#) of plant infected with *X. fastidiosa*
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Defra Plant Health Portal - X. fastidiosa](#)



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