



In this update:

- *Xylella fastidiosa*
- New Protected Zones and codes
- Other pests and diseases

If you have queries, please speak to your local inspector or see the websites linked below for more information.

Kind regards,
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Principal Plant Health & Seeds Inspector

Xylella fastidiosa



Outbreaks are present in Italy, France, Germany and Spain. The most recent outbreak in the EU is on mainland Spain on over 20 almond orchards near Alicante, of the *X. fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex*.

Hosts are listed on the [European Commission](#) database and must move with a plant passport within and between Member States. Annual authorisation of premises must be carried out - plants with suspect symptoms will be tested.

Photo left: Example of *X. fastidiosa* on *Nerium oleander* in Italy.

In October, Member States voted to amend the measures against *X. fastidiosa* with various changes, including a requirements to inspect and test the high risk hosts of:

- Olive (*Olea europea*)
- *Nerium oleander*
- *Lavandula dentata*
- Almond (*Prunus dulcis*)
- *Polygala myrtifolia*
- *Coffea*

This requirement will come into force from 1 March 2018.

Information sources on *X. fastidiosa*

On [GOV.UK](#), you can 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 and a short summary of *Xylella* high risk hosts are available on the [Defra Plant Health Portal](#), plus the [Forestry Commission website](#) also has helpful sources of further information.

New Protected Zones and plant passporting changes

As a follow up to the October 2017 update, and to help you understand the detail of what is required, we have published a summary of the new protected zone (PZ) requirements on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Full details are laid down in [Implementing Directive 2017/1279](#).

To summarise, the following PZs will come into full force on 1 January 2018 and include new passporting requirements for:

- *Choisya*
- *Murraya*
- Three new plant species susceptible to *Bemisia tabaci* (Tobacco Whitefly):
 - *Dipladenia*
 - *Mandevilla*
 - *Nerium oleander*
 - These must have an official plant passporting inspection to support measures against *Bemisia tabaci* entering the UK protected zone.

Please note that 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, which 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 Yellows 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

The following pests have recently been added to the [UK Risk Register](#).

Pests of trees and ornamentals:

- [Acanthococcus pohutukawa](#) - a felt scale of New Zealand Christmas trees (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
- [Agrilus ater](#) - a jewel beetle whose larvae feed on poplar and willow. See the image on the [BioMap](#) website
- [Callopietria floridensis](#) - Florida fern moth. See the images on the [Forestry Images](#) website
- [Xanthomonas dyei](#) - a bacterial pest of broadleaved trees and shrubs (e.g. *Olea*, *Prunus* and *Lobelia*)
- [Neodiprion abietis](#) - a sawfly pest of fir and spruce (particularly balsam fir). See the [information sheet](#)
- [Macrohormotoma gladiata](#) - a psyllid pest of *Ficus microcarpa* (Indian laurel). See the [information sheet](#).

Pests of food crops:

- [Dacus punctatifrons](#) - a fruit fly of Cucurbitaceae and Solanaceae. See the information and illustration on the [fact sheet](#)
- [Zaprionus indianus](#) - a vinegar fly (this pest record has been archived)
- [Zaprionus tuberculatus](#) - a vinegar fly (this pest record has been archived)
- [Mint vein banding-associated virus](#) - a virus associated with yellow banding in mint
- [Apple dimple fruit viroid](#) - a viroid which causes symptoms on some cultivars of apple. See the [fact sheet](#).

Wider environment:

- [Monoxia obesula](#) - a beetle associated with plants in the family Amaranthaceae growing in saltmarshes. See the [fact sheet](#) for more information.

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of each page on the [Risk Register](#), ensuring you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on.

Phyto-threats project - your help needed

A new research project is underway called **Phyto-threats**, aiming to tackle the spread of *Phytophthora* diseases in trade across the UK and address the risks to UK forest and woodland ecosystems from *Phytophthoras*.

Phyto-threats would like to invite you to [complete a survey](#) to improve the understanding of the supply chain (what you buy and where from), what influences your plant purchases, the importance of biosecurity, and your thoughts on an assurance scheme.

Phytophthora can be translated as 'plant destroyer' and there are over 100 species described. They affect a wide range of herbaceous and woody plant species, primarily attacking roots or foliage. The pathogen produces swimming spores (zoospores) that enter a host plant and establish an infection. It then feeds on plant nutrients and produces enzymes that breakdown plant tissue as it grows through the plant. Symptoms range from necrotic leaves or roots through to dieback of shoots, collapse, wilting and plant death.

- This [survey](#) is being carried out as part of the [Phyto-threats project](#), which is exploring the potential development of a UK-wide assurance scheme within the plant trade to reduce the risks of importation and spread of diseases
- The results of the survey will be shared with the emerging Plant Health Assurance Scheme being developed by HTA, National Farmers Union, Defra, APHA and horticultural sectors but both are aware of each other
- Since the criteria for an assurance scheme will be partly informed by stakeholder and consumer attitudes, this survey aims find out more about decisions people make when choosing and buying plants.

The Phyto-threats project is consortium of partners including Forest Research, APHA, James Hutton Institute, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture, and the Universities of Edinburgh and Worcester.

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 - either call the PHSI helpline on 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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