

Plant Passporting Updates No.19: July 2019

Dear Plant Passporter, this shorter edition is a must read if you grow and trade in oak plants.

- Changes to national legislation affecting the movement of oak plants
- Revised pest fact sheet on Spotted Lantern fly
- Get in touch

Tighter measures on the import of oak trees to come into force in England to protect the country against oak processionary moth

Strengthened measures on the import of most species of oak into England are to be introduced to protect native trees from the threat of the tree pest Oak Processionary Moth (OPM).

The bolstered measures will only permit imports of certain oak trees (above the size referred to below), including:

- those from OPM free countries
- those from designated pest free areas including Protected Zones (PZ) – an area of the European Union declared free of OPM
- those that have been grown under complete physical protection for their lifetime.

This Statutory Instrument (SI) – which is due to be introduced in Parliament shortly– builds on measures introduced in August 2018 and applies to all oak trees, except cork oak, with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more. This is because these trees represent the greatest likelihood of introducing OPM into the UK PZ, as they are more susceptible to pest populations and more difficult to inspect.

The restrictions will cover both imports from overseas and the movement of trees from areas of the country where OPM is already present – in London and surrounding counties.

In the June edition we included information about a range of new plant health measures including changes regarding plants of oak, above the size referred to, which will come into force on 1st September 2019. The national measures described above will effectively supersede in England the European Commission adopted law [DIRECTIVE \(EU\) 2019/523](#) and means the following will no longer apply for the prescribed trees:

‘the plants have been produced in nurseries which, along with their vicinity, have been found free from *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. on the basis of official inspections carried out as close as practically possible to their movement and official surveys of the nurseries and their vicinity have been carried out at appropriate times since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation to detect larvae and other symptoms of *Thaumetopoea processionea* L.’

Revised Pest Factsheet

The Spotted Lantern fly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a pest of fruit, ornamental and wood trees. There is a [revised factsheet](#), following reports of further spread and damage in the USA.

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 01904 405138).

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