



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Plant Health Risk Group: 2018/19 achievements

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Forestry Commission
England

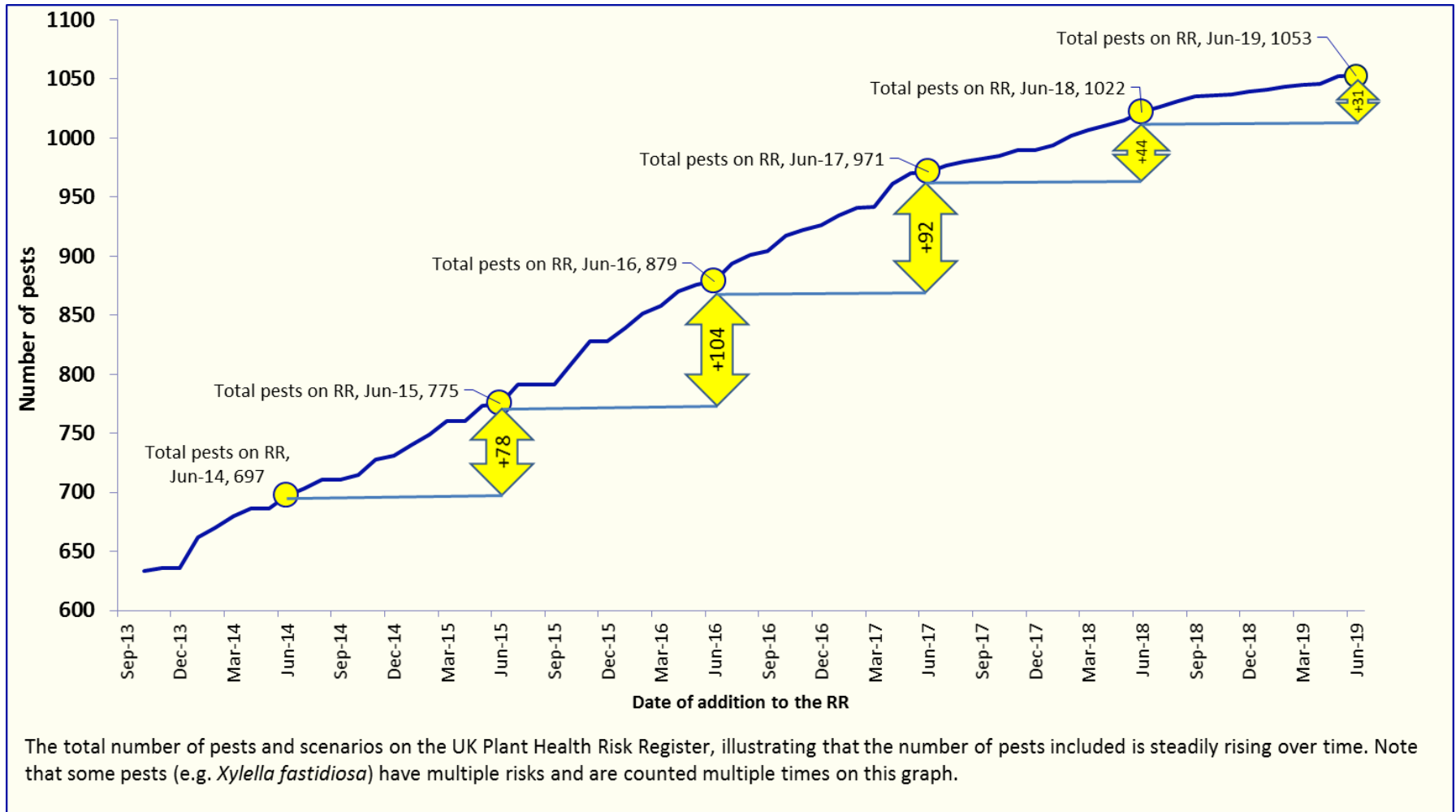


Environment
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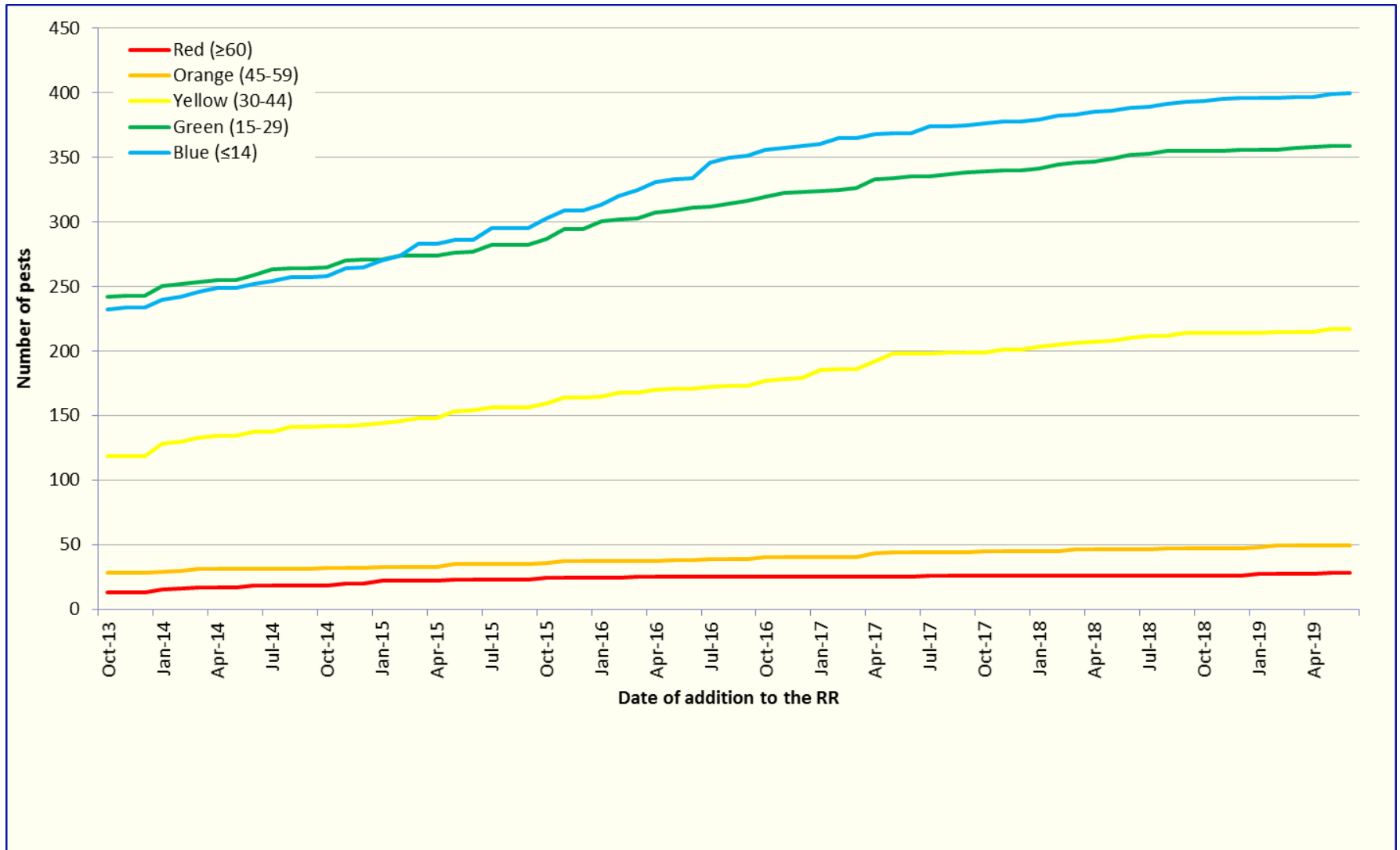
Plant health risk group highlights from 2018/19

- Review of structure/processes implemented from April 2019
- 4 new or updated PRAs published (*Crisicoccus pini* (Kuwana pine mealybug), Apple Dimple Fruit Viroid, *Corythucha arcuata* (oak lace bug), Pepper Vein Yellow Viruses)
- 1 policy review – Pepino mosaic virus, plus ongoing policy development on *Corythucha arcuata*
- Risk register remains principal screening tool, used to prioritise actions against specific pests, but also to develop bespoke advice/guidance
- Continued flow of technical outputs, in addition to RR/PRAs:
 - 9 non-forestry contingency plans published in total
 - 14 forestry contingency plans published
 - 30 pest alerts
 - 71 pest factsheets

Steady increase in Risk Register entries



Lower risk issues mainly, but not all..



PHRG outputs have supported national actions including..

- *Xylella* – extending the statutory notification scheme to include olives (Nov 18), with ongoing assessment of additional risk mitigation options
- *Thaumetopoea processionea* (oak processionary moth) – development of national measures (Aug 18), with updated measures introduced subsequently (July 19)
- Rose rosette virus – national legislation introduced (July 19), being used as a model for likely EU legislation
- National legislation on *Ips typographus* (larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle)

At EU level, PHRG outputs have supported...

- Update of *Xylella* legislation – *Polygala myrtifolia*
- New emergency measures on *Aromia bungii* (red-necked longhorn beetle) and Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus plus updated requirements on *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) and citrus fruit imports
- New/extended derogations (eg ash wood from US/Canada and potatoes from Lebanon) and consideration of a new derogation for US ammunition boxes
- Response to EU Sante F missions (eg Israel, US)
- Strengthened requirements on *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer) – Directive option to remove 2.5cm of ashwood has been disapplied for imports from US and Canada
- Reduced frequency import check review
- Technical reviews – pine bark from NZ; citrus greening – Gambia; pinewood nematode management in Portugal

Major new package of Annex changes, incorporating UK objectives based on PHRG outputs:

- Directive **2019/523**, applies from **1 September 2019**
- **New pests** regulated (eg *Aromia bungii*, *Oemona hirta*, *Pityophthorus juglandis*, *Geosmithia morbida*, *Bactericera cockerelli*) with associated import requirements in some cases
- **Soil and growing media** requirements clarified
- Revised and new (eg *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*, *Thaumetopoea processionea*, *Liriomyza* sp, *Bemisia tabaci*) **Protected Zone** requirements
- New **plant passporting** obligations (eg *Cedrus* plants moving into protected zones)
- **Phytosanitary certificates** required for new plants/products and certain used agricultural/forestry machinery and equipment

The PHRG has also supported plans for tertiary legislation under the EU Plant Health/Official Control Regulations

- Plant passport format – agreed
- High risk trades – agreed
- Products not requiring a phytosanitary certificate – agreed
- Licensing/movements of scientific material – agreed
- Official checks for intra-EU movements – agreed
- IMSOC – agreed
- Plant passport requirements – in progress
- Phytosanitary conditions regulation – WTO consultation planned over the summer

Contribution to EPPO

- ***Agrilus Fleischeri*** (a wood borer of poplar) - based on a risk register entry in 2017 this pest was identified as a strong candidate for an EPPO PRA. A PRA EWG was held on this pest in December 2018 and a PRA on ***A. bilineatus*** was also prepared at the same meeting. Both species have now been recommended for regulation by EPPO.
- Based on their respective risk register entries, **beech leaf disease** (possibly caused by *Litylenchus crenatae*) and *Chrysobothris femorata* (**flat headed apple tree borer**) should soon be added to the EPPO Alert list.
- The risk register entry for **Tomato brown rugose fruit virus** was used to help persuade EPPO to add this pest to the Alert list and of the urgent need for it to convene an EWG on PRA for this virus.

Contribution to IPPC

- The PHRG agreed that APHA should undertake a targeted inspection programme specifically to look at the cleanliness of **sea containers** (cargo transport units) in order for the UK to provide data to the IPPC sea container task force ([SCTF](#)). The SCTF is reviewing the potential phytosanitary risks posed by the international movement of sea containers and is due to make a recommendation to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in regards to the need for an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) covering sea container movement. UK data will form part of the evidence base for this important recommendation.
- The PHRG works closely with the UK plant health international group, the activities of which include twice yearly coordinating and agreeing UK comments on draft ISPMs which are out for country consultation and agreeing UK nominations for IPPC expert working groups.

New structure in place

- Implemented from April
- Continued UK-wide approach
- New (policy role) for UK NPPO group
- UK PHRG more policy/risk management focussed
- New/revised working groups undertaking detailed technical discussion and preparatory work



UK co-ordination remains a key element

- 2 review meetings a year
- “UK plant health authority” letters continue to be issued routinely
- New NPPO group to discuss strategic issues
- Aim is to ensure a co-ordinated UK view on pest/disease issues where possible while also ensuring that there is scope for individual priorities to be addressed as necessary
- Co-ordinated UK views facilitate effective negotiation in SCOPAFF and help to provide clarity and confidence to stakeholders
- Close collaboration and co-operation with Ireland, including involvement in 6-monthly review meetings

Case study - PSTVd

- Confirmation of PSTVd in Solanaceous seed ex USA by UK in February 2016, discussed by PHRG
- A further 15 EU wide findings in subsequent 18 months - material ex China despatched via USA, or USA origin
- Representation made via UK Trade to US Suppliers
- UK facilitated discussion in SCOPAFF discussions, followed by EU representation via EU-US Technical Working Group
- 3 EU findings between August 2017 - July 2018
- November 2018 - USA commences testing of seed into USA for 6 quarantine significant pospiviroids (including PSTVd)
- 0 Findings August 2018 - July 2019
- 9th August 2019 - USA publishes Federal Order for Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon*) and Pepper (*Capsicum spp*) seeds imported into USA from all countries - requiring testing, including small seed lots, by exporting country for 6 pospiviroids (including PSTVd), or produced in a country where the pospiviroids listed are not known to occur

Stakeholder engagement an important part of the process

- All PRAs and risk register outputs are published
- Stakeholders updated frequently through the Advisory Forum and Tree Health Policy Group
- Tailored approaches to engagement - Embassies, London Produce Show, bilaterals, multiples, shows
- Information provided directly to stakeholders, eg plant passporters' updates
- APHA local and national engagement with trade bodies and individual businesses
- Businesses using the risk register to inform decisions and stakeholder groups using it to advise members
- Wider activities by DAs and FC

In conclusion..

- Another productive and fruitful year
- Risk register continues to be our main screening tool, helping to identify and pursue priority actions
- The PHRG helps to support actions at domestic and international level
- Has responded to new challenges, e.g. national legislation and EU Plant Health Regulation
- Recognised as an effective system and EU processes are increasingly reflecting UK processes
- The level of achievement is possible only through a systematic approach, good co-ordination and collaboration, including with stakeholder groups