

helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

12th May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Pseudomonas avellanae*

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Pseudomonas avellanae*. A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.

In submitting any comments, you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties, and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by The UK Plant Health Services. The objective of this consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

Background

Pseudomonas avellanae is a bacterial pathogen which infects hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and is the causal agent of hazelnut decline and dieback. Disease caused by *P. avellanae* was first reported in 1976 in northern Greece and has caused severe damage to hazelnut orchards in both northern Greece and central Italy. Despite these severe impacts its distribution has remained restricted to these areas. *Pseudomonas avellanae* has the potential to be very damaging to UK populations of hazel, with trees growing on highly acidic soils at significantly greater risk.

Recommendations for action

The PRA concludes that statutory action against this pest is appropriate; and that continued exclusion of the pest would be the preferred management option. *Pseudomonas avellanae* meets the criteria for a quarantine pest and therefore GB regulation is proposed.

All responses should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk

Responses should be received by **04 August 2022.**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully

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