



Animal & Plant Health Agency

## Plant Passporting Update No. 43

May 2023

Dear plant passporters,

In edition No. 43 you can find information on UK interceptions of quarantine pests, attaching UK plant passports in the EU, new Oak Processionary Moth policy and guidance, Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) and seasonal pests and diseases on ornamental plants.



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## UK interceptions of quarantine pests



You can find details of recent interceptions we've made on plants and plant material on the [UK plant health information portal](#). The data gives a good overview of current pests and diseases that could pose a threat to businesses, growers and traders.

The data shows the pests we've found as well as the host and country of origin. They are separated into those due to presence of harmful organisms and those due to all other non-compliances, for example documentary infringements.

[Find out more](#)

## Attaching UK plant passports in the EU

Following a review, the Plant Health Services in Great Britain have agreed to extend an easement that allows draft UK Plant Passports to be attached in EU Member States on plants for planting intended for final users.

The current easement is due to end on the 30 June 2023, however, a decision has been made to extend the easement for another 24 months from 30 June 2023. The easement will not be extended past 30 June 2025.

This means EU plant suppliers will still be able to attach labels with details necessary for UK Plant Passports in the EU on plants for planting intended for final users. This easement excludes propagators.

While the extension to the easement allows for labels with UK Plant Passport information to be attached in EU Member States, the UK Plant Passport will not be valid until a visual check has been made and recorded by the UK Professional Operator. It will be necessary for the Professional Operator to record that the visual examinations have been conducted and that the requirements of the UK Plant Passport scheme have been met. Find out more on the [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#)

## Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) - new policy and guidance

As described in the April update, there are new changes coming into force on 24 May that impact moving large oak trees within the Oak processionary moth management zones in the South East of England. This could affect how you source, store and move oak trees. A [digital guide and video](#) has been produced to explain these changes.



## Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*)

Woodland managers, landowners and the forestry industry are urged to continue to be vigilant to the risk of the tree pest [Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle \(\*Ips typographus\*\)](#) following findings of the insect by the Forestry Commission on spruce trees in Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex in 2023.



A robust management programme is in place to manage the outbreak sites and prevent potential spread of the pest, in line with the eradication action taken to manage outbreaks of *Ips typographus* found in previous years. To combat further potential spread, controls are in place on the felling and movement of susceptible material. The south-east of England in particular is vulnerable to the beetle because it can naturally be blown over from Europe. An extensive network of pheromone traps has been positioned across the south-east to monitor for potential incursions of the pest from the continent and to identify suspect sites.

The larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is considered a serious pest on spruce in Europe. The beetle is mainly a secondary pest, preferring stressed or weakened trees. However, under the right environmental conditions, beetle numbers can increase enough to result in attacks on living trees.

## Seasonal pests and diseases

Help prevent these pests and disease from entering and being spread in the UK, we have included information on various pest threats below, which you need to be aware of:

### Ornamental plants

The [Granulate Ambrosia beetle](#) (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) is a bark beetle native to Asia, but is now found globally including in Europe. It was first noted in Italy in 2003 and spread to France in 2014. It is now found in France, Italy, Slovenia, and Spain. The beetle attacks many species of woody plants and is a pest of broadleaved trees. Where introduced, it has become a pest of fruit tree orchards and ornamental tree nurseries. This beetle usually prefers stressed

trees, but it is also known to attack healthy young trees as well as stacked timber.

The granulate ambrosia beetle is not present in the UK and is notifiable. [Report a pest or disease](#)

### **Forestry / Woodland**

The [Red Necked longhorn beetle](#) (*Aromia bungii*) is a wood boring longhorn beetle, that is one of the most destructive pests of Prunus fruit trees (cherry, plum, apricot and peach). Ornamental Prunus species can also be attacked. Native to south-eastern Asia, *Aromia bungii* was first found in Europe in 2008, with outbreaks in Italy and Germany. The outbreak near Naples is of particular concern because the outbreak area is quite large (over 20 km wide) and getting larger as the pest continues to spread.

The Red Necked longhorn beetle is not present in the UK and is notifiable. [Report a pest or disease](#)

This summer look out for [Dothistroma needle blight](#) (DNB) or Red Band Needle blight, as it is an economically important disease of conifer trees (trees with cones and needles), and particularly pines (trees in the Pinus genus). It is caused by the fungus *Dothistroma septosporum* (*D. septosporum*).

It causes premature needle defoliation, resulting in loss of timber yield and, in severe cases, tree death.

It is also known as red band needle blight because of the colourful symptoms it shows on pine trees. For more detail see [Disease symptoms and life cycle of Dothistroma \(red band\) needle blight - Forest Research](#)

DNB mostly occurs in managed pine forests. UK foresters are trained to recognise and manage it, so we do not require reports of suspected cases in forests from members of the public.

However, findings of DNB in trade, such as in nurseries or garden centres, must be reported to the relevant plant health authority. If you are based in England and Wales, report sightings to your local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector.

Given the very hot conditions in southern Europe this spring, [Pine processionary moth \(Thaumetopoea pityocampa\)](#) may be more of a risk this summer on plants from Europe. The PPM caterpillars feed on the needles of pine trees and some other conifer tree species, and in large numbers they can severely defoliate trees. This can weaken the trees, making them more vulnerable to attack by other pests or diseases, and to environmental stresses such as drought or flood.

PPM is not present in the UK and is notifiable. [Report a pest or disease](#)

## Edible crops

As ware and seed potato crops emerge and grow away this summer, while crop walking, please take time to check for [Colorado beetle](#) (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) and [Potato flea beetle \(Epitrix\)](#) which are serious pests of potato. It is important crops are checked by Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors and growers, as maintaining our pest free status supports the UK's wider international position and ability to move and export potatoes. This is why they are regulated quarantine pests, whose introduction and release is prohibited under plant health legislation.

Both pests are not present in the UK and are notifiable. [Report a pest or disease](#)

## Information on the Defra plant health portal

The [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#) offers a wide range of information to everyone to use as a resource. This includes:

- [Pest and disease factsheets](#)
- [Pest and disease alerts](#)
- [Pest risk analyses](#) (The process of identifying appropriate phytosanitary measures required to protect plant resources against new or emerging pests and regulated pests of plants or plant products)
- [Contingency plans](#) for a range of pests and diseases. Contingency plans strengthen protection against plant pests and diseases inland includes a commitment to develop effective contingency plans and clear governance to help eradicate or minimise the impact when outbreaks occur. And the
- [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#) which you can download and manipulate the data to help you make risk based decisions on plants you buy and trade in to others.

## 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](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk) or 0300 100 0313).

You can also get social with us:



Please contact the [APHA.CorporateCommunications@apha.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCommunications@apha.gov.uk) mailbox if you no longer wish to receive these email notifications

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