



Plant Passporting Update No. 44

July 2023

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Export of high-risk plants (HRPs) to the EU and movement of HRPs from Great Britain to Northern Ireland



The EU has a list of high-risk plants (HRPs) in Annex I of [Regulation 2018/2019](#) which are prohibited from export to the EU, pending a risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The list includes Acer, Cornus, Fagus, Ficus carica, Malus, Crataegus, Prunus and others. Due to Northern Ireland remaining part of the EU's Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) zone, it also implements Regulation 2018/2019.

Since 1 January 2021 these prohibitions have applied to Great Britain, which means the relevant list of **HRPs cannot be exported to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland.**

[Find out more](#)

Two cases of Colorado potato beetle confirmed

This month we have confirmed two findings of Colorado potato beetle: larvae have been found on a potato crop in Kent and one adult male beetle was intercepted in a garden in Hampshire.



Adult Colorado potato beetle (image copyright Fera Science Limited)



Colorado potato beetle larva (image copyright Fera Science Limited)

We are working with the affected grower to eradicate the pest in Kent and have removed the adult beetle reported by a householder in Hampshire. We are surveying the surrounding areas.

If not eradicated, Colorado potato beetles are a significant threat to potato crops. The adult beetles and larvae feed on the foliage of potato and other plants in the nightshade family and can completely strip them of their leaves if they are left uncontrolled. However, they are not a threat to human or animal health.

It is the first time an outbreak of the beetle has been confirmed in the UK since 1977, although they are endemic in large parts of Europe.

If you suspect the presence of Colorado potato beetle, please immediately report it to your local plant health and seeds inspector or [via the plant health information portal](#).

Keep up to date with the latest information: [UK Plant Health Information Portal - UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

Windsor Framework - Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) Scheme

On 1 October 2023 new arrangements for the movement of goods to Northern Ireland (NI) will come into force under the Windsor Framework (which replaces the old Northern Ireland Protocol). These arrangements include the Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) scheme which will provide a 'Green Lane' for GB-NI movement of plants for planting, seeds, seed potatoes and used agricultural and forestry machinery. Under the scheme these goods (some of which were previously prohibited or restricted to export via phytosanitary certificate) will be able to move from Great Britain to Northern Ireland between professional operators, without requiring an export inspection or phytosanitary certification.

Traders in England and Wales will need to be registered and authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and comply with specific requirements which will be set out in guidance later this month. Authorisation will allow professional operators to issue NI Plant Health Labels for plants for planting, seeds and used agricultural/forestry machinery moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. Seed potatoes can also be moved from GB to NI using the NI Plant Health Label. However, similarly to the Seed Potato Classification Scheme, NI Plant Health labels for seed potatoes must be issued by APHA.

If you move goods to NI (or might do so in the future) please look out for the instructions on how to apply for the scheme later this month.

Information on the Windsor Framework is available here: [Press Release Windsor Framework](#)

Responsibilities of authorised plant passporters

A reminder to all businesses issuing UK plant passports: you must ensure that plants and plant products are traceable throughout the supply chain and declare compliance with plant health requirements such as freedom from pests and diseases - this is essential for maintaining biosecurity. Recent interceptions this spring have included [Bemisia tabaci](#) and [Phytophthora ramorum](#).



Find out more in our [Plant Passport FAQ](#).

Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot extended to include three additional tree planting funds

As of 1 July, the Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot has now been extended to include three additional Government tree-planting funds to address risks to our biosecurity. The current grants now covered by the pilot are:

- [England Woodland Creation Offer](#)
- [Tree Health pilot](#)
- [Local Authority Treescapes Fund](#) (added 1 July)
- [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#) (added 1 July)
- [HS2 Woodland Fund](#) (added 1 July)

If you are a supplier:

If you supply trees via any of the grants above, you will now need to meet the biosecurity requirements set out within the [Plant Health Management Standard](#). You can do this by providing one of two types of evidence. Evidence can be either:

Category A: current membership of the [Plant Healthy Certification Scheme](#) or official application and fees paid to join the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme, with full certification achieved within one year.

or

Category B: successful [Ready to Plant Assessment](#) for the consignment.

If you are a land manager currently working on a grant application:

- If you are applying to EWCO or the Tree Health pilot, please continue to use the current application forms on gov.uk as these forms have not changed.
- If you are applying to LATF, UTCF or the HS2 Woodland Fund, you will find new grant manuals, application forms, terms and conditions and an exemption form on the individual grant pages on gov.uk, these will need to be used for all applications submitted from 1 July.

If you are a land manager who has already applied to any of the grants above:

- The Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot has been operational for the England Woodland Creation Offer and Tree Health pilot since June 2022, so you will have already committed to source your trees from suppliers who already meet the biosecurity requirements set out within Plant Health Management Standard.
- If you have applied for LATF, UTCF, or HS2 WF prior to 1 July 2023, you aren't required to source your trees from suppliers who meet the biosecurity requirements set out within the Plant Health Management Standard, however, we would strongly encourage you to do so to help ensure our green spaces are better protected from pests and diseases in the future.

You can read more about the importance of better biosecurity in the FC's [new blog](#), and find out more about the Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot on [gov.uk page](#).

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.

[See our latest interceptions](#)

Seasonal pests and diseases

Help us 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

Tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) is one of the most economically important agricultural and horticultural pests in the world, due in part to its adaptability, extreme host plant range and capacity to vector more than 110 plant pathogenic viruses.

There have been a number of interceptions and outbreaks of Tobacco whitefly in spring, so please ensure you purchase plants free from this pest. Before issuing and attaching a plant passport, ensure the person responsible thoroughly inspects the plants prior to movement.

Tobacco whitefly is not present in the UK and is notifiable. Inform your local inspector if you suspect the pest. [Report a pest or disease](#)

Forestry / Woodland

[Pine pitch canker](#) (*Fusarium circinatum*), reported in nurseries and forests in France and Italy, it is not currently known to be present in the UK. See [Forest Research pest alert on Pine pitch canker](#)

Also known as pitch or pitch pine canker, this is a serious canker disease of pines and Douglas fir caused by the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*. The disease affects trees in planted forests, nurseries, parks and gardens. In plantations, the disease leads to reduced growth and cone yield and can kill trees. It will also kill tree seedlings in nurseries.

If you suspect the presence of Pine pitch canker, report it to your local plant health and seeds inspector or via [report a pest or disease](#)



Fusarium circinatum (GIBBCI) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Edible crops

Following the information above about [Colorado beetle](#) (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) and the information in last month's newsletter on [Potato flea beetle](#) (*Epitrix*), two more diseases that affect **seed and ware potatoes** are:

- Potato [Brown rot](#), which is caused by the bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum* and is a regulated quarantine disease of potato in the UK. Yield losses are mostly caused by tuber rotting and, in many warmer areas of the world, it is one of the main limiting factors in potato production. It has a wide host range, affecting other crops, ornamental plants and some weed species. Brown rot is present in limited places in England and is notifiable. Please [report any findings](#).
- [Potato wart disease](#), caused by the soil-borne fungus *Synchytrium endobioticum*, affects cultivated potato and a number of wild Solanum species. It was once the most serious disease of potato but has now been controlled by statutory measures and the development of 'immune' varieties. However, it still poses a **significant threat** to potato production because the spores of the fungus can remain **viable in contaminated soil for many years**. Also, new strains of the fungus, capable of attacking potato varieties that were previously resistant, have developed in several European countries. Potato wart disease is present in limited places and is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

Peppers



Pepper weevil, *Anthrenus eugenii* is an economically damaging pest of *Capsicum annuum* (sweet pepper) and *Capsicum frutescens* (chilli peppers) but will also damage other solanaceous hosts including *Solanum melongena* (aubergine).

The import of produce from infested areas provides a potential pathway of introduction to the UK. Pepper weevil is notifiable - please [report any findings](#).

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 or 0300 100 0313).

You can also get social with us:



Please contact the APHA.CorporateCommunications@apha.gov.uk mailbox if you no longer wish to receive these email notifications

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.