



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Update No. 46

October 2023



Photo by [Nick Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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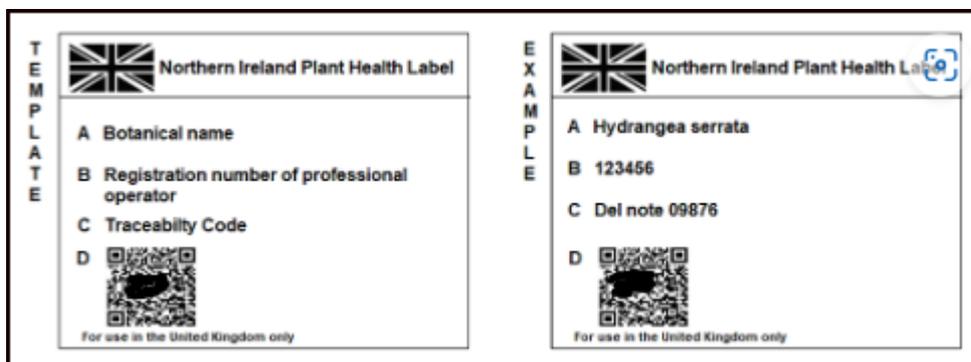
Windsor Framework – Northern Ireland plant health label (NIPHL) scheme

The new Northern Ireland plant health label (NIPHL) scheme was successfully launched on 1 October. This scheme allows plants for planting, seeds, seed potatoes, and used agricultural and forestry machinery to move from Great Britain to Northern Ireland between professional operators, without requiring phytosanitary certification.

Movement of these goods is only permitted if certain requirements are met, details of which and more information on registering to join the scheme can be found in our [guidance](#). For more information you could also join one of our [webinars](#), which are running throughout October.

On 29 September the Movement Assurance Scheme was extended to June 2025 which will provide additional support to operators who wish to move goods from GB to NI using a phytosanitary certificate. This provides operators more time to prepare their business models to move to the NIPHL scheme.

Please send any queries about the NIPHL scheme to traders@defra.gov.uk



Reminder: meeting the requirements for moving large oak trees this season

New regulation came into force in May this year to permit the movement of large oak trees (girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) and enable trade within the Oak Processionary Moth management zone consisting of an Established area and a Buffer zone, provided certain biosecurity measures are met. Large oak trees from professional operators are now subject to post-

planting inspections to check for OPM at their planting sites as part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) biosecurity regime.

Professional operators impacted by this new policy must keep accurate records of the details of those receiving large oak trees, including the delivery address and contact details, and store this information for a minimum of three years to ensure traceability of movements. The information can be recorded using the [Post planting Inspections form](#) which can also be found alongside more information on the biosecurity requirements on the [Restrictions on trade and movement of oak trees](#) section of the OPM GOV.UK webpage.

If you are in the Established area or Buffer zone and moving large oak trees, you can send these movement records to APHA Plant Health Service at treehealthtracing@apha.gov.uk.

Please contact your local Plant Health Inspector if you have any questions.



Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars. Photo credit: E Birchall, APHA

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.

From the end of September to early October [Bemisia tabaci](#) was the quarantine pest detected the most, along with the damaging bacterial spot and canker by [Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni](#) on Prunus plants.

[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

Bacterial spot and canker

[Bacterial spot and canker](#) of Prunus is caused by *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*, and is a notifiable disease of Prunus. Although potentially damaging on all Prunus species, the most severely affected stone fruit hosts are peach, apricot and plum. The bacterium causes leaf spots and shot-holing of leaves, spotting of fruit and stem cankers. The disease is present in the EU, but not in GB and is notifiable. [Report a pest or disease](#) if you suspect its presence.

Forest trees

Phytophthora pluvialis

Phytophthora pluvialis is a fungus-like pathogen known to affect a variety of trees including western hemlock, tanoak, pine (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus patula* and *Pinus strobus*) and Douglas-fir. Infections have been found in Cornwall, Devon, Cumbria and on one site in the northwest of Scotland. Symptoms are needle cast, shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots. See the [Forest Research symptom guide](#) for more information.

Oak lace bug

The oak lace bug, [Corythucha arcuata](#) is native to North America, but has been in Europe since at least 2000. Initially reported in northern Italy it is now found in at least 11 countries in continental Europe. The pest can move on oak logs and bark crevices on plants.

Symptoms on oak leaves:



Corythucha arcuata (CARTHAR) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

Edible crops

Pepper weevil

The Pepper weevil, [Anthrenus eugenii](#) is a notifiable and economically damaging pest of *Capsicum annum* (sweet pepper) and *Capsicum frutescens* (chilli peppers), but will also damage other solanaceous hosts including *Solanum melongena* (aubergine). The adults are reported to feed on a range of other Solanaceae, including potato, tomato, Petunia, Nicotiana, Physalis and Datura.

The Pepper weevil is not present in the UK and is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

Damage to a pepper:



Anthonomus eugenii (ANTHEU) - <https://gd.eppo.int>

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. Defra have refreshed and produced a range of new and update pest and disease information.

Also on the Defra plant health portal are:

[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.