



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.39: July 2022

Dear plant passporters, in edition No. 39 are a number of items on plant health policy, bio-secure procurement, new controls for 2022 and new PH Risk register pests and diseases:

- Changes to oak tree movement controls and reporting Oak Processionary Moth in England
- Bio-secure Procurement Requirement funding under the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) and the Future Farming Tree Health Pilot
- Ips typographus bark beetle & changes to demarcated area
- Legislation for autumn 2022
- Other Plant Health legislation changes
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamental plants, forest trees and edible crops
- Pests recently added or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register (use the information to help you to protect your business): canker on peach; bacterium on poplar and fungal root rot to many hosts

Changes to Oak tree movement controls and reporting Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) in England

At the beginning of March 2022, new (OPM) [Management Zone boundaries](#) came into force, to coincide with the introduction of strengthened measures for high-risk oak trees.

These measures prohibit the movement of large oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) within the newly expanded buffer zone and established areas, and from these areas into the Pest Free Area, unless they have been grown throughout their life in a site with complete physical protection and have been inspected and found free from OPM.

A pragmatic approach to enforcement was taken to support nurseries and traders as they adjusted to the new requirements. This included the introduction of temporary easements continuing to allow the movement of oak trees under specific circumstances, as agreed with the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI).

A number of these temporary easements changed at the end of May 2022. Any nurseries and traders growing oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) who fall within the expanded buffer zone and currently have agreed easements in place should consult with the PHSI who will provide advice on actions that need to be taken to meet movement requirements.

The [caterpillars of OPM infest oak trees](#), eating (defoliating) the leaves, weakening the tree and leaving it vulnerable to other threats. OPM nests and caterpillars are also a hazard to human and animal health.

If you own or manage oak trees, you should use this guidance to identify and survey the caterpillars, nests and report any sightings.

For more details on OPM, how to report it, what to look for and when, see [Managing oak processionary moth in England](#).

Bio-secure Procurement Requirement funding under the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) and the Future Farming Tree Health Pilot

A new biosecurity requirement for the forestry sector is being piloted from June 2022, to combat the threats from pests and diseases, and subsequently strengthen our UK biosecurity.

The Bio-secure Procurement Requirement requires applicants eligible for funding under the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) and the Future Farming Tree Health Pilot, to source their trees from suppliers who are either accredited under the [Plant Healthy Certification Scheme](#) or who have passed a [Ready to Plant](#) assessment, as provided by Fera Science Ltd.

Introducing this requirement will ensure that the threats posed by pests and diseases are addressed, as well as strengthening our biosecurity, and serving our long-term vision for our trees and woodlands.

Ips typographus bark beetle & changes to demarcated area

The larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle ([Ips typographus](#)) is considered a serious pest of spruce trees in Europe. Read more about the [pest and controls](#).

On the 20 July 2022 a [revised Notice](#) comes into force, changing the [demarcated area map](#) in order to help manage Ips typographus bark beetle.

Legislation for autumn 2022

In November 2022, Defra are looking to introduce an update to Plant Health import requirements across Great Britain.

Some of the new measures are below, with fuller details on the [Defra plant health portal](#) -

Changes are being made to the list of GB quarantine pests:

- Thekopsora minima (leaf rust of blueberry) no longer meets the criteria to be a GB quarantine pest. Therefore, Defra are preparing to regulate it as a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP).
- Certain pests which, on the basis of a preliminary assessment, have met the criteria to be GB quarantine pests will be listed as provisional quarantine pests.

Other Plant Health Legislation changes

[Plant Health legislation changes](#) that have been made to amend retained EU law, specifically the:

- [Plant Health Regulation \(PHR\)](#)
- [Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation \(PCR\)](#)
- [Official Controls Regulation \(OCR\)](#)

These changes impact the requirements of businesses importing and exporting plants, plant products and other objects to and from Great Britain (GB).

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 as professional operators you need to be aware of:

Ornamental plants

- [Corythucha arcuata](#), the oak lace bug 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. It is not known to be present in GB. It is a pest of Quercus (oak) but can also feed on a range of other broad-leaved trees including Acer (maple), Carpinus betulus (hornbeam), Corylus sp. (hazel), Fagus (beech), Prunus spp., Rosa, Rubus caesius, Sorbus (whitebeam), Tilia (lime) and Ulmus sp. (elm). If you find oak lace bug, please [report a pest or disease](#).
- [Citrus longhorn beetle](#) (Anoplophora chinensis) is a serious invasive pest that is found in Southeast Asia, with outbreaks in Italy, Croatia, and Turkey. It can infest a very wide range of broadleaved trees and would be a major threat to horticulture and the wider environment if they became established. It is not known to be present in GB and is notifiable, [report a pest or disease](#).

Forest trees

- [Dothistroma needle blight](#) (Dothistroma septosporum) also known as Red Band Needle Blight, is an economically important fungal disease of conifer trees, particularly Pinus species. The fungus is present in GB. 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. If you suspect the presence of Dothistroma needle

blight, report it to your local plant health and seeds inspector.

Edible crops

- [Anthomonus eugenii](#), the pepper weevil is an 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 import of produce from infested areas provides a potential pathway of introduction to the UK. Pepper weevil is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).
- [Pepper Vein Yellow viruses](#) (PeVYVs) have been recorded in 20 countries across 5 continents. A scattered distribution like this is likely indicative that such viruses may have a broader distribution despite a lack of further reports. These viruses have been found in North America in the USA, in Africa (parts), in Asia, Australia, and in Europe in Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey. Main hosts are *Capsicum* species, *C. annum* and *C. frutescens*, but *Solanum nigrum*, a common perennial in the wider UK environment, has also been recorded as infected. PeVYV is notifiable, [report a pest or disease](#).

Pests recently added to, or reviewed on the UK Plant Health Risk Register

Pests recently added to the risk register:

- [Diaporthe amygdali](#), a pathogen causing canker on peach and some other hosts
Pests recently reviewed on the risk register:
- [Lonsdalea populi](#) (previously *Lonsdalea quercina* subsp. *populi*), a bacterium causing cankers on poplar, and more recently also recorded from willow
- [Phymatotrichopsis omnivora](#), a fungal root rot pathogen affecting many hosts, but all in countries much warmer than the UK

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of the [UK Plant Health Risk Register webpage](#), and please also ensure you mention the name of the pest you are commenting on as we are not told which page the comment was made from.

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).

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