

Plant Passporting Update No.40: September 2022

Dear plant passporters, in edition No. 40 are a number of items on contingency plans, RtP, PRA, factsheets and Risk register updates for legislation:

- New contingency plan has been published for Red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*)
- Ready to Plant (RtP) workshops and England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)
- New PRA for Chilli vein mottle virus
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamental plants, forest trees and edible crops
- Updated factsheets and pest alerts on the Defra plant health portal
- UK Plant Health Risk Register updated for GB legislation (use the information to help you to protect your business)

A new contingency plan has been published on *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* – the red palm weevil

A new contingency plan has been published on the Defra plant health portal [contingency planning page](#) regarding *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* – the red palm weevil (other plans are on the same page).

As background – Protecting the nation against natural threats (including plant health) and hazards is one of Defra’s top priorities.

The Defra Generic Contingency Plan describes how the Plant Health Service in England will manage outbreaks of plant pests. In particular, it covers the physical and human resources that are required for an outbreak response and describes the outbreak management process.

It is designed primarily for use by staff in Defra, APHA and FC, who are involved in planning for outbreaks of plant pests in England, and for those who are involved in the outbreak response.

[Ready to Plant – Home \(fera.co.uk\)](https://fera.co.uk) **workshops for England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) and tree health restocking schemes**

In [July's update](#) we included an item on a new biosecurity requirement for the forestry sector being piloted from June 2022, to combat the threats from pests and diseases, and subsequently strengthen our UK biosecurity.

Fera Science Ltd organised [two free workshops](#) one was on the 12th of September and the second is on 3rd of October, to provide further support to tree suppliers through the new [Ready to Plant](#) (RtP) Assessment process.

These workshops are aimed at current and potential suppliers of trees for EWCO and tree health restocking schemes. These two grants schemes are part of Defra’s pilot of a [Biosecure Procurement Requirement](#). The workshops will provide an

overview of the [Plant Health Management Standard](#) (PHMS), [Plant Healthy](#), as well as Fera's new Ready to Plant Assessment.

For further information about the Ready to Plant Assessment scheme, please visit <http://readytoplant.fera.co.uk/> which provides further guidance on the application form and a process flowchart. If you have any enquiries, please send them to readytoplant@fera.co.uk

Fera look forward to welcoming you to these workshops.

New Defra Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) published for review on the portal for Chilli veinal mottle virus (CVMV)

The PRA on CVMV can be found on the [Pest Risk Analysis page](#). Defra welcomes views and comments on the PRA, for details on what and how to comment please look at page [Pest risk analyses – UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

As background – A PRA is the process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economical evidence to determine whether an organism is a pest or pathogen, if it should be regulated and to identify control measures to be taken against it. For further information on Defra's approach to PRAs and to view all current PRAs published for review please visit the [PRA section](#) of the portal.

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

[Xylella fastidiosa](#) is a bacterial disease which can kill plants by stopping them taking up water. At present Xylella is NOT known to be present in the UK but it can affect a large range of plants. Xylella has been reported in southern Italy, France including Corsica, Spain including Balearic Islands, as well as several non-EU countries.

It is not known to be present in GB and is notifiable, [report a pest or disease](#).

[Asian longhorn beetle](#), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is a serious invasive pest that is found in East Asia. Asian longhorn beetles and the closely related Citrus longhorn beetle 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

[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](#).

Pine pitch canker, also known as pitch or pitch pine canker, 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.

Edible crops

[Brown rot](#) 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, effecting other crops, ornamental plants and some weed species. Brown rot is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

[Yacon biosecurity advice](#) preventing the introduction and spread of viruses in yacon, an edible tuberous root plant in the family Asteraceae. It originates from south Americas.

An investigation by the Animal and Plant Health Agency in 2020, found that yacon being grown in the UK and imported yacon from several different sources, were infected by a harmful virus: Potato yellowing virus. These findings highlight that there is uncertainty about the disease status of this crop. Yacon can no longer be legally imported into GB, and while there remains a significant degree of uncertainty over the general disease status of this crop, we recommend yacon currently in GB should not be grown in the future.

Updated [factsheets](#) on Defra plant health portal:

[Aromia bungii](#), [Colorado Potato Beetle](#), [Xylella fastidiosa](#) and [Rose Rosette Virus](#) are now available.

The contact details for pest alerts are being updated and will be uploaded on a rolling basis over the next few months.

The following [pest alerts](#) currently have the most up to date contact details:

- [Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp](#)
 - [Pseudomonas avellanae](#)
 - [Xylella fastidiosa](#): Consumer information
 - [Risk to olive tree trade from Xylella fastidiosa](#)
 - [Zebra Chip Disease](#)
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Risk register updated for GB legislation 8th August 2022

The risk register has been updated to reflect these changes which came into force for certain pests in Great Britain on 8 August, as laid out in [The Phytosanitary Conditions \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#).

The affected pests are:

- [Eotetranychus sexmaculatus](#) (six spotted spider mite)
- [Platypus apicalis](#) (an Ambrosia beetle)
- [Agrilus horni](#) (Aspen root grinder beetle)
- [Chrysobothris femorata](#) (Apple tree borer)
- [Lycorma delicatula](#) (Spotted lantern fly, a pest of woody and herbaceous species)
- [Chilli veinal mottle virus](#)
- [Diaporthe phaseolorum var. sojae](#) (Fungal disease of various bean species and soya)
- [Pseudomonas avellanae](#) (Bacterial dieback of hazel)
- [Meloidogyne arenaria](#) (Root knot nematode various ornamentals and commercial fruit crops)
- [Meloidogyne enterolobii](#) (Root knot nematode glasshouse crops)

- [Meloidogyne javanica](#) (sub-tropical root knot nematode protected crops)
- [Xiphinema index](#) (Polyphagous dagger nematode, preferred host is Vitis)

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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