



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Update No.42: April 2023

Dear plant passporters,

In edition No. 42 there are a number of items covering interceptions of quarantine pests, OPM, feedback on biosecure sourcing and more:

- UK interceptions of quarantine pests
- Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) management zones and policy
- Windsor Framework, movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland
- Legislation for spring 2023
- Defra needs your feedback to support the development of its biosecure sourcing policy!
- New contingency plan for Citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) published
- Seasonal pests and diseases
- Information on the Defra plant health portal.

UK interceptions of quarantine pests

You can find information about interceptions on the [Defra plant health portal](#). The interceptions are separated into those due to presence of harmful organisms and those due to all other non-compliances, for example documentary infringements. While high level, the data can give businesses an indication of pest problems that could pose a threat to businesses, growers and traders.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) management zones and policy

In March 2023, changes were introduced to the [OPM management zones](#). Following this, Defra will soon be introducing new requirements for moving large oak trees within these zones.

New regulation will come into force on 24 May 2023 permitting the movement of large oak trees (girth at 1.2m above the root collar of >8cm) and trade within the established area and buffer zone. This is providing certain biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions are met.

Next steps:

- Prepare for these changes by visiting [GOV.UK](#) to see the updated management zone boundaries and more information on the upcoming changes
- Check out this [digital guide](#).

Defra's Tree Health team will also be hosting a webinar for professional operators based in the OPM impacted areas in London and surrounding counties from 10:00 to 11:00 on Thursday 11 May.

You can find out more and register for the webinar [here](#).

If you have any questions, please speak to your Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI). If you don't have details for your PHSI, please email planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk or call 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling).

Windsor Framework, movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland

- The framework restores the free flow of trade from GB to NI with a green lane that will enable retail goods destined for NI to move easily without burdensome customs bureaucracy. The green lane will be open to a broad, comprehensive range of businesses across the UK.
- In addition, plants, seeds and trees staying in the UK, including previously banned seed potatoes and other shrubs and plants, will be able to move from Great Britain to Northern Ireland as they do in the rest of the UK, increasing access and choice. This will include 11 'high-risk' native and other commercially popular tree species categorised as 'high risk plants' by the EU and prioritised by industry.
- Further details will be released in due course.

Additional information regarding the Windsor Framework can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Legislation for spring 2023

In addition to the OPM provisions mentioned above, in May 2023, the GB Plant Health Services plan to make certain corrections to the legislation. See the [supplementary information](#) for more details.

The WTO have been notified of the relevant corrections that will come into force in May 2023. If you have any comments or questions, please email planthealth@defra.gov.uk.

Defra needs your feedback to support the development of its biosecure sourcing policy!

The Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot has now been in place for the England Woodland Creation Offer and the Tree Health Pilot Restocking grant schemes since June 2022. It requires that suppliers of trees for these grants comply with the Plant Health Management Standard. The Plant Health Management Standard has been designed to help improve biosecurity standards and reduce the risk of introducing or spreading plant pests and diseases in the UK.

If you supply trees for these grants (or if you are likely to in the future), your feedback will help Defra get this policy right.

The BPR pilot is being evaluated by ICF (an independent consulting firm), on behalf of Defra. You can provide feedback in different ways:

- You can respond to a survey available [here](#). The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. If you have previously responded to a survey regarding the BPR, the questions will be similar and there is no need to respond again, but you may still wish to provide further feedback through one of the alternative methods below.
- You can speak directly with someone from the evaluation team. You can book a timeslot to do so by clicking [here](#) (please note that this will send an invite for a Microsoft Teams meeting – if you would prefer to be contacted by phone, you can indicate this in the notes and provide a contact number and we will call you directly).

- You can send an email with your thoughts to Hardy@icf.com.

New contingency plan for Citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) published

A new Defra plant health response plan for findings of *Anoplophora chinensis* (citrus longhorn beetle) has been published on the plant health portal. The plan describes how the plant health service for England will respond to the findings of the pest, including specific measures developed under the overarching Defra contingency plans for plant health in England.

The new contingency plan can be found [here](#).

[Citrus longhorn beetle](#) has been intercepted in the UK at nurseries and at premises involved in importing bonsai and ornamental trees from China, Japan and South Korea.

Citrus longhorn beetle has an extensive host range of deciduous trees and shrubs including many species native to the UK and species grown as ornamentals. The larval stage is cryptic (hidden inside the plant) and can be one to two years in Asia, however in the UK the lifecycle is likely to be three or more years as in the Netherlands. The larvae feed internally on the pith and vascular systems of the lower trunk and root. The tunnels created by the feeding leave trees susceptible to diseases and wind damage. The adults cause much more limited damage by feeding on foliage and eating the bark of young shoots.

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

Aleurocanthus spiniferus, the Citrus Spiny whitefly, has been intercepted over the last couple of months on *Fatsia japonica* from the EU. The pest is present in some European countries, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#) entry describes it as a 'polyphagous whitefly unlikely to pose a significant threat to UK plant health, but growers of host crops (e.g. Citrus, Pyrus, Prunus, Rosa and Vitis) under protection may wish to be aware and monitor for its presence.'

Citrus Spiny whitefly is not present in the UK and is notifiable, [report a pest or disease](#).

Edible crops

The [Columbian root-knot nematode](#) (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*) (Golden et al., 1980) is a root-knot nematode, first found and described from roots and tubers of potatoes in a field near Quincy, Washington State, USA.

Meloidogyne chitwoodi is a regulated quarantine pest in GB, NI and the EU and is an economically important pest of potato. The symptoms on tubers and roots are similar to those caused by other root-knot nematodes, typically inciting small galls. The surface of infested potato tubers usually exhibits numerous pimple-like raised areas; however, this can be variety dependant.

M. chitwoodi is not present in the UK and is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

Another similar nematode is [Meloidogyne enterolobii](#) known to feed on a wide range of economically important crops and wild

plant species. *M. enterolobii* is primarily a tropical/subtropical species, but it could pose a threat to protected cultivation in the UK. As a result of this threat, *M. enterolobii* was listed as a provisional quarantine pest in GB legislation in 2022. The symptoms caused by *M. enterolobii* infestation are similar to those caused by many root knot nematodes, including stunting, galling of roots, malformation and yield losses.

Meloidogyne enterolobii has a wide host range of both herbaceous and woody plants, including potato, cucumber, pepper and tomato.

M. enterolobii is not present in the UK and 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).

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