



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.36: January 2022

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

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Managing oak processionary moth in England and moving Oak plants

New OPM [Management Zones](#) boundaries have been published. The boundaries come into force at the beginning of March, to coincide with the introduction of strengthened measures for high-risk oak trees from EU countries which will extend import requirements for oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) to the whole of GB. Movement of high-risk oak trees within GB will also continue to be restricted – large oak trees can only be moved from the newly expanded buffer zone

and established area into the Pest Free Area if they meet specific conditions, including that they have been grown under complete physical protection and have been inspected. A pragmatic approach to enforcement is being taken to support nurseries and traders as they adjust to the new requirements. Any nurseries or traders growing oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) who now fall within the expanded buffer zone should immediately consult with the PHSI who will provide advice on actions that can be taken before the end of May to support adaptations to the new requirements.

There is now [updated guidance and information on oak processionary moth \(OPM\)](#) for those who own or manage oak trees, including private trees and woodland owners as well as local authorities.

A new [OPM hub](#) has been developed containing advice on how to manage OPM, including tools such as an OPM management plan, lepidoptera biodiversity map, and an interactive map to help identify where OPM is currently found within the Established Area and Buffer Zone.

A [toolkit for local authorities and larger landowners](#) to help plan for and manage OPM, developed by Tree Council in partnership with Forest Research has also been published.

Attaching UK Plant Passports in the EU – reminder

Until 30th June 2022, Defra will allow UK PPs to be attached in an EU member state. This approach will be subject to ongoing review to monitor levels of non-compliance and any resulting biosecurity risk. Those UK PPs should be in the correct format (outlined in [Section 1 and Annex I of the factsheet](#)) and should be

attached correctly. Guidance on attachment is [available on gov.uk](#).

Great Britain operates a UK Plant Passport system for internal movements of plants both within and between GB and the Crown Dependencies. Northern Ireland continues to use the EU Plant Passport system (in line with the Northern Ireland Protocol), and EU Plant Passports apply for movements of Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (QNIGs) from NI to GB. Phytosanitary certificates are required when moving goods from GB to NI.

Forestry Commission continues to act on new tree disease –
Phytophthora pluvialis

Woodland managers, landowners, the forest industry and tree nurseries are being urged to remain vigilant after the Forestry Commission (FC) and Forest Research (FR) identified the tree pathogen *Phytophthora pluvialis* in woodlands in Cumbria and south-west England.

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. It was originally reported in Oregon, USA in 2013 on tanoak and Douglas fir and was subsequently identified as the pathogen responsible for 'red needle cast' of radiata pine in New Zealand.

Phytophthora pluvialis was discovered in a woodland in Cornwall in September 2021, where it was found to be affecting mature western hemlock and Douglas-fir trees. Following extensive surveillance, further outbreaks have been found in Cornwall, Devon, Cumbria and on one site in the north west of Scotland and at three sites in Wales. For further information on the Scotland finding and management approach please visit the [Scottish Forestry website](#). For further information on the findings in Wales please visit the [Welsh Government website](#).

Following a [risk assessment](#) done by the UK Plant Health Risk Group, which concluded that *Phytophthora pluvialis* meets the criteria to be classified as a GB quarantine pest for regulatory purposes. To protect England against this disease, the [Forestry Commission](#) has introduced revised demarcated areas around the confirmed outbreak sites, and introduced movement restrictions on materials capable of spreading the disease using Notices.

Third annual National Plant Health Week

This year's third annual National Plant Health Week will take place 9-15 May 2022, where a number of organisations will be collaborating across sectors to raise awareness about plant biosecurity, and actions people can take to help keep our plants healthy. See [Plant Health 2020](#) for more information.

Generic Contingency Plan for Plant Health in England

Following a review of England's plant health outbreak management process in 2020, a number of improvements have been made to help the Plant Health Service in England respond rapidly and effectively to an outbreak.

These changes are reflected in the new Generic Contingency Plan for Plant Health in England, which was published at the beginning of this year. This plan has been developed by Defra in collaboration with the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Forestry Commission, Fera Science Ltd, Forest Research and the Devolved Administrations (DAs). It explains 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. While it does not cover plant pest outbreaks in the United Kingdom (UK) outside of England in detail, the plan does describe the role of the DAs in an outbreak response in England, including when outbreaks cross from England into DA territories.

The Generic Contingency Plan for Plant Health in England can be found on the [Plant Health Portal – Contingency planning](#).

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:

Ornamentals

- [Bacterial spot and canker](#) caused by *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*, 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 GB and is notifiable. Report this pest if you suspect its presence. The disease is present in the EU but not GB and is notifiable. [Report this pest](#) if you suspect its presence.
- [Rose Rosette Disease](#) (RRD) is a damaging and often fatal condition affecting *Rosa* species, caused when the host plant is infected with rose rosette virus (RRV). All *Rosa* species, including climbers, hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures and antique rose species and varieties, are considered to be susceptible or potentially susceptible to RRV and its mite vector *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*. Symptoms to look out for are leaves redden

and become distorted, whilst shoots elongate and redden. Witches' brooms and excessive thorniness are characteristic of RRV infection.

Forest trees

- [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 north west of Scotland. Symptoms are needle cast, shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots, see the [Forest Research symptom guide](#).
- [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. The pest can move on oak logs and bark crevices on plants.
- [Pseudomonas avellanae](#) is a bacterial pathogen of hazel (*Corylus avellana*), present in Greece and Italy, but not present in the UK. The disease causes stem and twig dieback which can lead to cankers and bacterial oozing.

Edibles

- [Ring Rot of potatoes](#) is caused by a bacterial pathogen *Clavibacter sepedonicus* that can potentially cause serious losses to potato growers and seed potato producers. The disease is favoured by cool climates and could easily establish under UK conditions. There have been outbreaks in the UK with the first occurring in

2003/4 on a farm in Wales and a further outbreak in ware potato crops in 2013. The outbreaks were both linked to the import of infected seed potatoes from Europe and were successfully eradicated.

- [Epitrix](#) is a very damaging beetle pest of potato from North America that is now established in Spain and Portugal, but not in the UK. The larvae feed on tubers just under the skin impacting upon visual appearance and marketing.

Updated pest factsheets

- [Notifiable pests](#): Many of the pest alerts under notifiable pests have been update on the plant health portal.
- [Notifiable diseases](#): all of the pests under notifiable diseases have been updated on the plant health portal

In addition, the factsheet on the bacterial pathogen, [Clavibacter sepedonicus](#), that can potentially cause serious losses to ware potato growers and seed potato producers has been an updated.

Pests recently added to or reviewed on the UK

Plant Health Risk Register

Risk register review:

The risk register entry for *Phytophthora pluvialis* has been reviewed. This is a fungus-like pathogen affecting several

species of conifer trees. For more details and images see [Phytophthora pluvialis page on gov.uk](#).

Pests added to the risk register:

- [Creontiades pallidus](#), a polyphagous bug pest of cotton which is also predatory on other arthropods. It is reported as having some impacts on pepper and aubergine crops in Spain and Turkey, although this appears to be dependent on the situation, particularly the presence of preferential food sources.
- [Cyclorhipidion pelliculosum](#), a beetle pest of broadleaved trees.
- [Leucaspis pini](#) – a scale insect affecting pine trees

If you have any comments on these entries, please leave them via the feedback box on the bottom of the [Risk Register web page](#), 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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