



Animal & Plant Health Agency

## **Plant Passporting Updates No.37: March 2022**

Dear plant passporters, in this edition are a number of items on plant health policy, passporting and pests and diseases:

- Plant passporting requirements after importation
- Recent EU legislation impacts plant health exports to the EU
- Legislation in Spring 2022 – update
- Managing Oak Processionary Moth in England
- How and who to notify about finding a notifiable plant pest or disease
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamental plants, forest trees and edible crops
- Updated factsheets – pests of maize, potatoes, ornamentals
- Pests recently added to the UK Plant Health Risk Register – use the information to help you to protect your business

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### **Plant passporting requirements after importation**

- The plant passport (PP) system applies to all plants intended for planting and exists to protect our industry and our natural environment from plant pests and diseases, and ensure consumers receive the highest standard of products. It also helps maintain the UK's

reputation as a nation with high plant health standards, with businesses from which plants and plant products can be sourced reliably and safely.

- Great Britain (GB) is no longer part of the EU's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Area, and GB plant health regulations have diverged from EU plant health regulations. Therefore, as UK PPs attest that the plants in question have met GB plant health standards, they cannot be valid in the EU, and EU PPs cannot be valid in GB.
- Regulated plants and plant products entering GB must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate (PC), confirming compliance with GB's import requirements. Regulated plants for planting moving within GB must be accompanied by a UK PP issued by authorised businesses and confirming compliance with the plant pest and disease requirements prescribed in GB regulations, applicable to both plants of imported origin and those that have been domestically produced
- The PC can be used when moving regulated plants and plant products from a BCP/Control Point to the first place of destination. A UK PP should then replace the PC for movements from the first place of destination to elsewhere in GB.
- Ahead of issuing a UK PP, a GB authorised business should carry out an examination of the plants to ensure they meet GB requirements. These examinations should be documented to enable plant health inspectors to confirm they have taken place, prior to the issuing of UKPPs, during annual inspection visits.
- Until 30th June 2022, UK PPs can be attached in EU member states, so that UK operators do not need to

attach the labels at their premises. This approach is a temporary one and gives businesses time to adapt. We are currently reviewing this policy to determine a more permanent position and we will provide updated guidance to businesses shortly.

- In addition to the above we have also worked with key stakeholder groups through our Plant Health Advisory Forum to ensure that policies are pragmatic and minimise burden to businesses where possible, while protecting biosecurity, and we have taken a number of measures to streamline the PP system.
- For example, PPs do not need to be attached to every individual pot or sleeve, if the plants are homogenous in composition and origin, and moving to the same location a PP could be attached to another trade unit, for example a tray, box, or trolley. We also allow single PPs to cover trolleys of mixed plants and plant products when they are supplied to retailers, to avoid operators having to label each individual plant.
- For further details on Plant Passporting please visit the [plant health passport](#) and see the [free e-learning module here](#).

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## Recent EU Legislation

The European Commission have published an [Implementing Regulation \(Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2285\)](#) that updates the list of pests, prohibitions and requirements for plants and plant products for the import into, and movement within, the EU.

Please see [our summary of the changes](#) that will impact the export of certain plants and plant products to the EU and to NI. The relevant measures mentioned in the summary shall apply

from 11 April 2022 – other than measures on host plants for *Euwallacea fornicatus* sensu lato which will apply from 11 January 2023.

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## Legislation in Spring 2022 – Update

Defra has [introduced legislation](#) which:

- introduces specific import requirements for *Scolytus morawitzi* and *Polygraphus proximus* (both beetle pests of conifer)
- updates existing measures to enable trade
- strengthens protections against Oak Processionary Moth risks through trade and movement (see details below)
- modifies the regulatory status of other pests to ensure that legislative action is proportionate to the threat of each pest.

The legislative changes that introduce new pest measures, or that facilitate trade, came into force on 2 March 2022. The remaining changes will come into force on 8 August 2022.

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## Managing Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) in England

From 2 March 2022 new legislation came into force on OPM and the import requirements have been extended to apply to GB, rather than just the GB Pest Free Area.

The legislation requires that imports into the GB Pest Free Area from EU countries and movements within GB can only take place if the oak trees concerned:

- have been grown throughout their life in places of production in countries in which OPM is not known to occur
- have been grown throughout their life in a Pest Free Area for OPM, established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM No. 4
- have been grown throughout their life in a site with complete physical protection against the introduction of OPM and have been inspected at appropriate times and found to be free

The requirements also apply to movements within GB, and therefore movements of large oak trees (with a girth at 1.2m above the root collar of 8cm or more) within the buffer and established infested areas into the Pest Free Area are prohibited unless they have been grown throughout their life in a site with complete physical protection and have been inspected.

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.

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## How and who to notify about finding a notifiable plant pest or disease

Details on [reporting a pest/disease](#) of plants or any other non-native plant pest must be reported to the relevant authority.

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## 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

- [Popillia japonica](#) more commonly known as the 'Japanese beetle', is a type of chafer beetle native to Japan. The beetle is highly polyphagous (eats many types of plant) including woody plants, with over 300 hosts in 79 plant families reported in the USA. While they are best known as defoliators, adults will also feed on fruit, while larval stages feed on and cause damage to turf and pasture.
- [Lycorma delicatula](#) is a plant-hopper bug, commonly known as the 'spotted lanternfly', that is reported to be native to northern China, and has been introduced to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and the USA. It feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) being one of its preferred hosts. The latter tree has become popular in the UK for planting along city streets, in urban parks and in landscaping schemes. Spotted lanternflies can be spread long distances by people who move infested plant material or items containing the cryptic egg masses. If introduced to the UK or Europe, the pest could have an impact on the grape, orchard, and horticultural industries.

### Forest trees

- [Pine processionary moth](#) (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) – Forest Research (PPM) larvae, or caterpillars, are a threat to the health of pine (*Pinus*) and some other conifer tree species, as well as a hazard to human and

animal health. PPM is present in the EU including around Paris in France. PPM is not present in the UK and is notifiable.

- [Oak processionary moth](#) (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)  
– Forest Research caterpillars feed on oak leaves. OPM is established in southern, central, and western Europe as far north as Great Britain, northern Germany, and The Netherlands.  
In the UK, it is established in most of Greater London and in some surrounding counties in Southeast England. See the above details above on changes to managing OPM in GB.

#### Edible crops

- [Colorado beetle](#) (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) is a serious pest of potato and is not established in the UK. Therefore it is a notifiable quarantine pest, whose introduction and release are prohibited under plant health legislation. Colorado beetles are occasionally imported into the UK as “hitchhikers” on non-host plant material, such as leafy vegetables, salad leaves, fresh herbs, and grain, which have been grown in fields previously planted with potato, but they can also be imported with potatoes. Such accidental introductions most commonly occur in spring and early summer. The [fact sheet on Colorado beetle](#) includes insects mistaken for Colorado beetle.
- [Potato wart disease](#) (PWD), caused by the soil-borne fungus *Synchytrium endobioticum*, affects cultivated potato and several wild *Solanum* species. PWD poses a significant threat to potato production because the spores of the fungus can remain viable in contaminated soil for many years. On infected potato tubers, the eyes

develop into characteristic warty, cauliflower-like swellings. The disease is present in the UK and is notifiable.

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## Updated pest factsheets

Various pest and disease fact sheets have been updated on the plant health portal:

- [Emerging maize pests and diseases](#).
- [Bacterial Brown rot](#) affects various crops including potatoes, tomatoes, other edibles and some ornamentals.
- [Spodoptera species](#) are extremely polyphagous, with individual species feeding on a wide range of plant species and families.
- [Yacon](#) a tuberous root plant grown for consumption. Yacon can be a pathway for virus movement. See [advice on preventing introduction and spread of viruses in Yacon](#).

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

Pests added to the risk register:

- [Erthesina fullo](#) – Yellow spotted stink bug is a pest of fruit and ornamentals in its home range and has established in Albania. Awareness needs to be maintained due to the risk of entry as a contaminating



pest (also known as hitchhiker). Monitoring of the situation in countries where it is known to be present will continue.

- [Eutypella parasitica](#) – Fungal pathogen of maples and sycamore, present in parts of Europe and beyond. Unlikely to cause significant damage if introduced to the UK, but statutory action would be taken against interceptions as a precaution.
- [Pseudomonas syringae pv. persicae](#) – Bacterial pest of hosts such as peach and nectarine, which are not widely grown in the UK. It is more likely to be of concern to countries where the hosts are more widely cultivated.
- Two diseases: [Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. phaseoli](#) and [Xanthomonas fuscans subsp. fuscans](#) are bacterial diseases of common beans and some other legumes, mainly transmitted by infected seeds. Present in most bean-growing areas of the world. The highest impacts have been seen in countries with warmer climates than the UK.

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.

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## 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](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk) or 0300 100 0313).

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