



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Update No.41: December 2022

Dear plant passporters, in edition No. 41 are a number of items on annual authorisation, interceptions of quarantine whitefly, tree disease *Phytophthora pluvialis* and pests factsheets:

- Authorisation to issue UK plant passports
- UK interceptions of quarantine whitefly – *Bemisia tabaci*
- Information on *Phytophthora pluvialis* – reminder
- Legislation for autumn 2022 and spring 2023
- Seasonal pests and diseases on ornamental plants, forest trees and edible crops
- Updated factsheets on the Defra plant health portal.

Authorisation to issue UK plant passports

All traders authorised by APHA to issue UK plant passports must re-apply annually via [Defra, UK – eDomero](#). The annual authorisation also acts as a reminder to you about the genera of plants you grow, buy in, trade in and thus about the pathways and risks your business can be exposed to. The annual application also informs your local plant health inspectors about the genera you deal in, when a growing season inspection may be needed and annual audit of you as a professional operator.

UK interceptions of quarantine whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*

The Dutch inspection service has increased inspections of plant genera susceptible to the UK quarantine pest [Bemisia tabaci](#) following numerous interceptions in Great Britain. More details in [Naktuinbouw \(mailplus.nl\)](#) (click translate), to read the article - 'Intensification inspection plants destined for UK'.

The United Kingdom has indicated that the number of interceptions of tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) on solanum pseudocapsicum plant origin in the Netherlands in particular is far too high. The NVWA, in consultation with the inspection services, has therefore decided to intensify the inspection of the following plants: *Solanum pseudocapsicum* and *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Christmas star). This intensification took effect on 19 October.

Information about *Phytophthora pluvialis*, including how to report sightings

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.

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, Surrey and at multiple sites in Scotland and Wales.

Symptoms:

Phytophthora pluvialis is known to cause needle cast, shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots. Read the [symptom guide](#).

What businesses must be aware of:

Please note that official controls have been updated on the

Demarcated Areas (DMAs) in place for *Phytophthora pluvialis*, which those trading the following should be aware of:

- Western hemlock (*Tsuga*)
 - Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga*)
 - Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus*), and
 - Pine species (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus patula* and *Pinus strobus*)
- Whilst this is primarily aimed at timber movement and forestry, it also references plants for planting.
- [Details of DMAs for Wales](#) (maps and movement restrictions)
 - [Details of DMAs for England](#) (maps and movement restrictions).

How to report sightings:

Please remain vigilant for signs of *Phytophthora pluvialis*. If you think you have spotted signs of this disease anywhere in Great Britain then please tell us using [tree-alert](#).

Legislation for autumn 2022 and spring 2023

In November Defra introduced legislation (see [here](#)) to update Plant Health import requirements across Great Britain.

Urgent legislative changes that comply with international obligations came into force on 25th November 2022. These include:

- Changes are being made to the list of GB quarantine pests: Moving Blueberry Rust (*Thekopsora minima* (Arthur) Sydow & P. Sydow) from the list of GB quarantine pests to the list of GB regulated non-

quarantine pests as it no longer meets the criteria to be a GB quarantine pest.

The remaining changes will come into force on 3rd May 2023:

- 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.
- Extending the obligation concerning plants, plant products and other objects originating in third countries which may only be introduced into Great Britain if special requirements are met to include EU Member states, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, treating all countries equally.
- Add for *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (emerald ash borer) a requirement that the name of the pest free area should be included on phytosanitary certificates.
- Clarification of the *Xylella fastidiosa* Wells et al. measures, to ensure that pest free areas for lower risk hosts are notified in advance and that names of places/sites of production are included on phytosanitary certificates.
- Seeds of *Pinus* L. and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirbel) Franco will be subject to Article 72 checks.
- Correcting the name of the genus *Chrysanthemum* L., making no changes to the existing import requirements.

The WTO have been notified of these new measures as appropriate.

Seasonal pests and diseases

Help prevent these pests and diseases 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

[Bemisia tabaci](#) is one of the most economically important agricultural and horticultural pests in the world, due in part to its adaptability, extreme host plant range and capacity to vector more than a 110 plant pathogenic viruses. Bemisia tabaci is present in a number of EU member states and UK plant health service has made numerous interceptions on plants from the EU.

It is notifiable, [report a pest or disease](#).

Forest trees

[Emerald ash borer beetle \(Agrilus planipennis\) – Forest Research](#) Infestation by emerald ash borer (EAB) beetles is usually fatal to affected ash trees, and if it were to become established it could do significant damage to our woodland biodiversity and hardwood industries.

Its westward spread into continental Europe increases the risk of an accidental introduction into the UK.

If you think you have spotted signs of emerald ash borer anywhere in Great Britain, you must tell us immediately using the [TreeAlert](#) pest reporting tool.

Suspected sightings in Northern Ireland should be reported using [TreeCheck](#), the all-Ireland pest and disease reporting tool.

Edible crops

[Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus](#) (ToBRFV) is highly transmissible virus of mainly tomato and pepper. Spread is via seed and mechanically. The virus is named after the brown, wrinkled (rugose) patches which can develop on the fruit of

infected plants. However, this distinct symptom is somewhat uncharacteristic of infection with the virus. Fruit generally suffers from discoloration (e.g. chlorotic marbling and dark spots), uneven ripening, deformation, reduced size, and necrotic patches or spotting.

ToBRFV is notifiable, please [report any findings](#).

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

Notifiable pests:

[Grape Phylloxera](#) – damaging insect pest of grape vine

[Thrips palmi](#) – highly damaging thrip of glasshouse and vegetable crops.

Notifiable diseases:

[Xylella fastidiosa](#) – bacterium kills many plant genera

[Flavescence doree](#) – phytoplasma of grape vine

[Hop stunt viroid of hop](#) – can also infect grape vine and stone fruit

[Xanthomonas abricola pathovar pruni](#) – bacterial spot and canker of Prunus.

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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