

## **Pest Measures Q&A**

### **Q. What are the proposed measures?**

Measures would be introduced or updated in Great Britain against the import of host plants and other relevant regulated goods for certain pests (*Prodiplosis longifila*, *Agrilus fleischeri*, *Thekopsora minima* and *Agrilus planipennis*). Imports of these high-risk plant goods would only be permitted under certain conditions e.g. the goods being grown in a pest free area, treated with heat. Measures would also introduce a prohibition on the import of *Polymnia sonchifolia* plants from entering Great Britain, pending a risk assessment.

### **Q. What imports are affected by these measures?**

Certain measures would only apply to imports from countries present with the pest, for example, imports from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and Russia are directly affected by proposed measures on *Agrilus fleischeri*. Similarly, imports from countries in the Americas are directly affected by proposed measures on *Prodiplosis longifila*.

The remaining proposed measures would affect the relevant commodities from any country importing to GB.

### **Q. Why are you proposing these measures?**

Pest Risk Analyses, conducted by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), have recommended *Prodiplosis longifila*, *Agrilus fleischeri*, and *Thekopsora minima* for regulation and suggested the approach that GB are introducing. The presence of these pests in the UK would introduce an additional threat to crops such as blueberries, tomato, asparagus, as well as poplar and willow trees. We are therefore proposing specific import requirements to enhance the level of protection against the risk of these pests entering GB.

Measures on *Polymnia sonchifolia* plants and the pest *Agrilus planipennis* are being proposed to specifically combat these developing threats. GB quarantine pests were intercepted on samples of the plant *Polymnia sonchifolia*. In addition, the distribution of *Agrilus planipennis* has now expanded to St Petersburg. The proposed measures would strengthen the existing measures for *Agrilus planipennis* and take precautionary action against the new threat *Polymnia sonchifolia*.

The related legislation will be updated as needed in response to changing risk profiles and will be based on Pest Risk Analyses and decisions will be taken at the UK Plant Health Risk Group. We will engage with stakeholders ahead of any amendment to the regulations.

### **Q. What evidence do you have to support these measures?**

An extensive Pest Risk Analysis has been conducted for each of these pests. A Regulatory Triage Assessment and a stakeholder consultation will follow to assess the impact of introducing all these measures in Great Britain. All analyses demonstrated that the nature of the biosecurity risk posed by these pests justified additional legislative measures.

The decision to progress with this legislation was taken at the UK Plant Health Risk Group (a decision-making body that has representatives from Defra, Forestry Commission and all Devolved

Administrations) with oversight from the UK National Plant Protection Organisation (consisting of the four Chief Plant Health Officers of the UK and senior Forestry Commission officials).

**Q. Are these pests in the UK?**

None of these pests are known to be present in GB, but we remain concerned about the possibility of them arriving in GB on imported host plants. The Pest Risk Analysis for each pest concluded that establishment and spread of this pest in GB would be possible.

**Q. The Pest Risk Analyses were published years ago, why are these measures being proposed now?**

In light of the potential for these pests to enter and establish in the UK, enhanced protection is needed at the earliest opportunity, to mitigate the risk of introduction.

The UK was previously subject to EU-wide processes for new regulations and so it has only been possible to propose such measures as agreed now the transition period has ended, while also taking into account the ongoing risk associated with these pests.

The measures being proposed would be GB-wide, following consent from the devolved administrations. These reflect the required measures as regards the desired level of protection for plants imported from countries and areas where these pests are present.