



## *Xylella* high risk hosts

- *Xylella fastidiosa* can cause severe losses in a wide range of hosts.
- In the event of an outbreak in the UK there would be a massive impact on the affected nursery and any other nurseries within the buffer zone, which is currently 10km.
- Currently there are major outbreaks in:
  - Provinces of Lecce and Brindisi – Southern Italy
  - Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur (PACA) – Southern France, and Corsica
  - Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza, with a finding also confirmed on mainland Spain (Alicante)
- An outbreak in Germany is relatively small compared to the situations in Spain and Italy as it relates to a small number of plants which have been moved in trade.
- The official measures required in the event of an outbreak under the Commission Decision for *Xylella* are very similar for all subspecies/strains of *Xylella*. This means that any outbreak of *Xylella* in the UK will have a very serious impact on the growers affected by it.
- The multiplex strain is considered to pose the greatest plant health risk to the UK.
- The hosts listed below are those which are considered to be the highest risk. However these are only a few of the species confirmed infected in the EU, a full list of confirmed hosts for EU outbreaks can be found at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible_en)

## Host Plants

| Host                          | Subspecies/strains recorded on host in Europe  | <i>Xylella</i> found in traded plants                                       | Large trade into the UK from other Member States                                 | Additional risk factors and Comments   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>    | Fastidiosa – Mallorca<br><br>Pauca – Italy (CoDiRo strain) and Ibiza<br><br>Multiplex – Mallorca and France  | Yes – On a nursery in Spain and in plants from Spain in the Czech Republic. | Yes - but impossible to quantify as going direct to retail with quick turn over. | Over 60% of positive diagnoses in outbreaks in France have been on <i>Polygala</i> . Very high risk host but it may not survive UK winter outdoors. Large volumes of trade, that sometimes move through the distribution chain to retail very quickly.   |
| <i>Olea europaea</i>          | Pauca – Italy<br><br>Multiplex - Mallorca  |   | Yes  | High levels of infection with the strain of Pauca (CoDiRo) in Italy, extensive death of trees. Multiplex strain confirmed on <i>Olea</i> in Mallorca. <i>Olea</i> is very susceptible but infection can remain latent and not show any symptoms for several years. Currency fluctuations have resulted in large volumes of specimen olives being imported and more affordable in garden centres and at multiple retailers. Host will survive outdoors in UK. |
| <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | Fastidiosa – Germany*<br><br>Pauca - Italy<br><br>Multiplex – France<br><br>Unknown - Mallorca   | Yes – In Germany unknown origin   | Yes  | A host of several different subspecies/strains. Found in a single plant which was purchased in Germany so <i>Xylella</i> likely to be moving in traded plants of rosemary. Much of the Italian potted herb production occurs in the Albenga area in north-west Italy, close to the French border where there is an outbreak involving Multiplex. This material has been seen in the UK. Host will survive outdoors in UK.                                    |
| <i>Lavandula sp.</i>          | Pauca - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> , <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> and <i>Lavandula dentata</i> – Italy<br><br>Multiplex - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> , <i>Lavandula dentata</i> , <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> and <i>Lavandula x allardii</i> (syn. <i>Lavandula x heterophylla</i> ) in France |   | Yes  | Several different species of lavender are hosts. Will survive outdoor in the UK. Much of the Italian potted herb production occurs in the Albenga area in north-west Italy, close to the French border where there is an outbreak involving Multiplex. This material has been seen in the UK.  |
| <i>Prunus sp.</i>             | Pauca – <i>Prunus dulcis</i> and <i>Prunus avium</i> – Italy<br><br>Fastidiosa - <i>Prunus dulcis</i> and <i>Prunus avium</i> - Mallorca   | Yes – <i>Prunus avium</i> on a nursery in Mallorca.                         | Yes  | <i>Prunus</i> is a host of several different subspecies in Europe. Important for fruit production and as an ornamental in the UK. Recent finding in <i>Prunus domestica</i> in Mallorca could be significant as <i>Prunus domestica</i> is widely grown in the UK and  |

|                        |   |  |     |   |
|------------------------|---|--|-----|---|
|                        | <p>unconfirmed sub sp - <i>Prunus domestica</i> – Mallorca</p> <p>Multiplex - <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>, <i>Prunus dulcis</i> – France</p> <p>Multiplex – <i>Prunus dulcis</i> – Alicante, Spain</p> |  |     | <p>there is commercial plum production in the UK. There is a significant trade in <i>Prunus</i> directly from Italy and France (over 1200 notified EU plant and tree consignments in 2016-17) 30+ consignments notified in 2016-17 originated in Spain. Much material is also traded via other member states.</p> <p>Multiplex has been confirmed in <i>Prunus dulcis</i> in Alicante, this is the first confirmed finding in mainland Spain.</p> |
| <i>Nerium oleander</i> | <p>Fasidiosa – Germany*</p> <p>Pauca – Italy</p> <p>unconfirmed sub sp – Mallorca and Ibiza</p>   | Yes – Single plants in Germany unknown origin. | Yes | <p>A host of several subspecies/strains in Europe and found in a traded plant in Germany. <i>Nerium</i> is currently imported in large quantities from Spain and Italy. It is also traded via Netherlands and Belgium. It is also marketed by the multiple retailers enabling rapid nationwide distribution of a single infected consignment. Unlikely to survive outdoors in UK.</p>   |

\*Finding in Germany relates to individual plants which have been moved in trade.

## Other notable hosts

*Spartium junceum* (Spanish broom) – On sale in the UK, host of multiplex and pauca. Has accounted for 27% of positive diagnoses in PACA. While a major host in southern member states, it is not a high volume seller in the UK. However, it may be planted more widely in southern and coastal areas.

Hebe – Widely grown in the UK, a host of multiplex. Very large volumes of UK own production and EU imports. It is planted in a very wide range of private garden and amenity landscape situations across the UK.

*Coffea* (Coffee) – Infected coffee plants have been identified on a number of EU countries (including the UK). These infected plants have all been associated with imports from Central America. This has resulted in a ban on plant for planting of *Coffea* from Costa Rica and Honduras. However *Coffea* plants from any area where *Xylella* is present may pose a risk.

## Advisory Information

Suspected outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* or any other non-native plant pest should be reported to the relevant authority:

For **England and Wales**, contact your local **APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector** or the **PHSI Headquarters**, Sand Hutton, York.

Tel: 01904 405138

Email: [planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

For **Scotland**, contact the **Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit**:

Email: [hort.marketing@gov.scot](mailto:hort.marketing@gov.scot)

For **Northern Ireland**, contact the **DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch**:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: [planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>

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