



Information Note

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 5km.
- Currently there are major outbreaks in:
 - Italy: Provinces of Lecce and Brindisi (Southern Italy) and the promontory of Monte Argentario in the southernmost part of Tuscany
 - France: Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur (PACA) (Southern France) and Corsica
 - Spain: Balearic Islands - Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza; Mainland – Alicante, Madrid and Andalucia
 - Portugal: Municipality Vila Nova de Gaia
- An outbreak in Germany was declared eradicated in spring 2018. This was relatively small compared to the situations in Spain and Italy as it related to a small number of plants which had been moved in trade.
- There is now additional evidence that *Xylella* is moving in traded plants following confirmation of *Xylella* in *Polygala myrtifolia* on a nursery in Spain and of greater concern the identification of *Xylella* at a wholesaler in Belgium in olive trees originating in Spain. *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* was first notified as present in almonds in Israel, with which the EU had significant plant trade, in 2019.
- The official measures required in the event of a *Xylella* outbreak are very similar for all subspecies/strains. 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 for the UK; some (as indicated) are subject to specific legal requirements on the basis of their risk to the EU as a whole. However these are only a few of the species confirmed infected in the EU, a full list of confirmed hosts for EU outbreaks and subject to movement requirements across the EU can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/susceptible_en

Host Plants of concern to the UK

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> – specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency Measures	Fastidiosa – Mallorca Pauca – Italy (CoDiRo strain) and Ibiza Multiplex – Mallorca, France and Tuscany (Italy) Unknown – Spain (Andalucia)	Yes – On a nursery in Spain	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 moves through the distribution chain to retail very quickly. Due to <i>P. myrtifolia</i> being particularly susceptible to <i>Xylella</i> additional inspection and testing requirements have been introduced for plants moving within the EU.
<i>Olea europaea</i> – specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency Measures	Pauca – Italy Multiplex – Mallorca Unknown – Spain (Madrid)	Yes – At a wholesaler in Belgium on two lots of olive trees originating in Spain.	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* Pauca - Italy Multiplex – France and Tuscany (Italy)	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> is 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

	Unknown - Mallorca			where there is an outbreak involving Multiplex. This material has been seen in the UK. Host will survive outdoors in UK.
<i>Lavandula</i> sp. – <i>Lavandula dentata</i> is specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency measures	<p>Pauca - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>, <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> and <i>Lavandula dentata</i> – Italy</p> <p>Multiplex - in France, Portugal and Tuscany (Italy) (species so far identified: <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>, <i>Lavandula dentata</i>, <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> and <i>Lavandula x allardii</i> (syn. <i>Lavandula x heterophylla</i>))</p>		Yes	Several different species of lavender are hosts. Will survive outdoors 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</i> sp. – <i>Prunus dulcis</i> is specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency Measures	<p>Pauca – <i>Prunus dulcis</i> and <i>Prunus avium</i> – Italy</p> <p>Fastidiosa - <i>Prunus dulcis</i> and <i>Prunus avium</i> - Mallorca</p> <p>unconfirmed sub sp - <i>Prunus domestica</i> – Mallorca</p> <p>Multiplex - <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>, <i>Prunus dulcis</i> – France; <i>Prunus dulcis</i> – Spain; <i>Prunus amygdalus</i> – Tuscany (Italy)</p> <p>Multiplex – <i>Prunus dulcis</i> – Alicante, Spain</p>	Yes – <i>Prunus avium</i> on a nursery in Mallorca.	Yes	<p><i>Prunus</i> is a host of several different subspecies in Europe. Important for fruit production and as an ornamental in the UK. Recent findings in <i>Prunus domestica</i> in Mallorca could be significant as <i>Prunus domestica</i> is widely grown in the UK and 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 was the first confirmed finding in mainland Spain.</p>
<i>Nerium oleander</i> – specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency Measures	<p>Fastidiosa – Germany*</p> <p>Pauca – Italy</p> <p>unconfirmed sub sp – Mallorca and Ibiza</p>	Yes – Single plants in Germany unknown origin.	Yes	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.

*Finding in Germany relates to individual plants which have been moved in trade, and was declared eradicated in spring 2018

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 in 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 plants for planting of *Coffea* from Costa Rica and Honduras. However *Coffea* plants from any area where *Xylella* is present may pose a risk. ***Coffea* plants for planting have been specifically listed as a higher risk host in EU Emergency Measures.**

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.gov.uk

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

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

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

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: 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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