

## *Xylella fastidiosa*

### Implications for the nursery trade

Update 1 (01/16)

This guide is intended for growers, retailers, landscapers, garden designers, traders and anyone involved in **importing plants**, including from within the EU.

#### Key points

- There are known outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy, France (Corsica and mainland France).
- An outbreak in Jersey or the UK could lead to destruction of host plants within 100 m of the outbreak, and a 10 km movement ban for host plants for five years.
- The host list is likely to increase and includes trees, shrubs and herbaceous. Keep checking:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/index_en.htm)
- Landscapers, designers, retailers and anyone directly importing plants are now subject to the same stringent measures as growers and suppliers. A new plant passporting obligation for all 'professional operators' has been introduced, which requires that the movement of all 'host plants' across the EU must be accompanied by a plant passport.
- Anyone importing host plants from the EU needs to ensure they are accompanied by a plant passport confirming they have been sourced from disease free areas/sites.
- Be vigilant for signs of *X. fastidiosa* and report any sightings.



Leaf scorch of *Polygala myrtifolia* (Milkwort) infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Corsica.

Photo: Bruno Legendre, Anses

## Risk – why does this disease matter?

This disease has the potential to have huge implications for the Jersey and UK horticultural trade and wider environment and it is therefore imperative that all parties are aware of the importance of following the measures put in place. These are initiated at EU level, apply to Jersey and are non-negotiable.

## What is *Xylella fastidiosa*?

*X. fastidiosa* is a bacterial pathogen, which has been found in parts of France and Italy, and could have a wide and damaging impact on nursery stock production, urban landscapes and countryside. It causes multiple symptoms including wilts, diebacks, stunts and leaf scorch. The EU is on high alert for this pathogen and we must be especially vigilant in Jersey, as the pathogen has not been recorded here and a Pest Risk Analysis indicates it could establish here and have significant impacts. The pathogen has four known subspecies which affect different hosts and in North and South America widespread damage has been recorded, including affecting up to 35% of urban plantings in New Jersey, USA as well as causing severe damage to citrus, coffee and olive production. For further information please see additional reference sources at the end of this document. ***X. fastidiosa* subspecies *pauca* was first confirmed in Europe in 2013 causing devastation to olive plantations in southern Italy. Additionally in 2015 *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*, has been identified affecting a number of host species in France and Corsica. The different hosts of these are shown in Annex 1, with new hosts recorded on a frequent basis.**



Leaf scorch and die back of Olea (olive) infected by *Xylella fastidiosa*.

## What are the new controls?

Anyone importing host plants to Jersey from the EU must ensure that they are accompanied by a valid plant passport confirming they have been sourced from disease free areas/sites.

A Ministerial Decision has been prepared by Jersey Plant Health Authorities giving power to seize and destroy any host plants not accompanied by valid plant passport, whether the plants are showing symptoms or not.

The already extensive list of host species is likely to grow and includes species of oak, maple, hebe, lavender, rosemary, bay and many other popular plants for gardens and landscapers. The host list will be updated frequently and is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/index_en.htm).

A new plant passporting obligation for all 'professional operators' has been introduced, requiring that the movements of all 'host plants' across the EU must be accompanied by a plant passport – see **Annex 1** for hosts as of January 2016. In practice this means that landscapers, designers, retailers and **anyone directly importing plants** are now subject to the same stringent measures as growers and suppliers. The plant passport can be used to underpin and help businesses record audits and include in assurance schemes plants they have received or traded, as this in turn can help investigations into potential finds of the disease or limit any actions taken at premises. Find out more about plant passports here:



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

## Xylella Scorch on Coffee Plant (courtesy of EPPO).

Although the EU measures permit the movement of host plants from demarcated areas if they meet certain stringent conditions, in practice no nurseries have been authorised for plant passporting in such areas. If this were to change, there is a legal requirement to notify Plant Health Services of any 'specified plants' (as defined in the EU legislation) received from a demarcated area, to facilitate tracing and targeted checks. Details of currently demarcated areas are available on the European Commission website at: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/index_en.htm)

Each EU member state must develop a contingency plan for dealing with *X. fastidiosa* should it be found.

### What happens if the disease is found?

There are two ways the disease will be dealt with, depending on whether it is intercepted or an outbreak.

**An interception** occurs when the disease is found on a plant but it is unlikely to have spread to other plants. To limit the risk of spread the Head of Plant Health for Jersey would require destruction of the host plants and is likely to destroy any potential hosts in close proximity, which will be dependent upon local factors described below. Further survey work will be carried out to ensure that there has been no spread.

Examples of factors that will affect the level of action taken include: the time of year; whether the plants are outdoors or under protection; are in active growth; symptomatic of *X. fastidiosa*; their origin; their species; there are known disease vectors present etc. Plant Health Service actions would be focused on eliminating the risk of spread.

**An outbreak** occurs when the disease is found on a plant and has spread. An outbreak is compounded when some or all of the following may have occurred e.g. origin of plants is unknown, stock mixed on site with other host material from other sources, infection having spread on site by being confirmed in different batches from different sources, presence of disease vectors and the disease etc. **If an outbreak** is declared, the following measures would be implemented:

- 1) Destruction of **all** *Xylella* known 'hosts' plus other plants which may be infected, **within 100m** of the plants with confirmed infection.
- 2) Statutory movement restrictions within a **buffer of radius 10km for five years minimum** – for Jersey this would restrict the movement of all host plants

**across the whole Island.** The 'host plants' listed in the

emergency decision could only be moved within or outside of the demarcated area (which is the infected area, plus a buffer zone of 10km), if they have been grown under physical protection and provided certain other requirements have been met.

- 3) Insecticidal application in the demarcated area is obligatory in order to control vectors which spread *X. fastidiosa*.
- 4) Once all infected plants and suspect plants have been destroyed, the Jersey and UK Plant Health Service will carry out latent testing of potential host plants. This means testing of plants which do not show symptoms, to see if they are infected.



*Xylella fastidiosa* symptoms on *Prunus* (cherry) (Courtesy of EPPO).

**Period of restrictions:** the requirements for the demarcated area of the outbreak will remain in force for a minimum of **5 years** after official surveys have confirmed that *X. fastidiosa* is not present.

### How you can help with good practice

- Ensure that plant passports arriving with plants are correct and keep the plant passport to aid trace back if necessary.
- Source from known suppliers or visit suppliers to view their processes, procedures, bio-security arrangements and

the plants they grow.

- Make sure that imported plants both originate from and are sourced from disease free areas. Details on infected areas at [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/index_en.htm).
- Isolate or quarantine new batches of plants and monitor them during the growing season for signs of the disease – whilst not a legal requirement it is good practice to place 'imported' hosts of *Xylella* in a quarantine area – ideally a good distance away from other host plants and if possible place under physical protection. If any outbreak is confirmed all 'host' material within 100 m will need to be destroyed.
- Label and keep records of the identity of all received batches of plants including: where the plants came from and when.
- Maintain records of pesticide treatments.
- Destroy old or unusable plants.
- Comply with the national and local requirements to notify the Jersey Plant Health Service about if you see any suspect plants in consignments arriving from the EU.

## Annex 1 host plants found to be susceptible to *X. fastidiosa* in the Union territory and must be plant passported:

### Host plants found to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.	Sycamore
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i> L.	Tree Wormwood
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	Wild asparagus
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i> L.	Montpellier cistus (Rockrose)
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i> L.	Sage Leaved Rock Rose/Gallipoli Rose
<i>Coronilla valentina</i> L.	Scorpion Vetch
<i>Genista ephedroides</i> (syn. <i>Cytisus racemosus</i> Broom)	Genista (Broom Family)
<i>Genista ephedroides</i> DC.	Genista (Broom Family)
<i>Hebe</i>	Hebe
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Mill.	English Lavender, Common Lavender
<i>Lavandula dentata</i> L.	French Lavender
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> L.	French Lavender, Spanish Lavender, Topped Lavender
<i>Myrtus communis</i> L.	Myrtle
<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i> L'Hér	Rose Geranium
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> L.	Myrtle-leaf milkwort
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Ehrh.	Cherry Plum/Myrobalan Plum
<i>Quercus suber</i> L.	Cork Oak
<i>Rosa floribunda</i> Steven (syn. <i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb)	Floribunda roses
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L.	Rosemary
<i>Spartium junceum</i> L.	Spanish Broom/Weavers Broom

### Host plants found to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



<i>Acacia saligna</i> (Labill.) Wendl.	Port Jackson Wattle/Blue-Leaved Wattle/Weeping Wattle
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	Wild asparagus
<i>Catharanthus</i>	Catharanthus (Peri-winkle)
<i>Cistus creticus</i> L.	Pink rockrose
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Jacq.	Sand Olive/Switchsorrel
<i>Euphorbia terracina</i> L.	Geraldton Carnationweed
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> L.	Grevillea/Spider Flower
<i>Laurus nobilis</i> L.	Greek Laurel/Sweet Bay
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Mill.	English Lavender, Common Lavender
<i>Myrtus communis</i> L.	Myrtle
<i>Myoporum insulare</i> R. Br.	Myoporum/Native Juniper/Blueberry Tree
<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	Oleander/Rosebay
<i>Olea europaea</i> L.	European Olive
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> L.	Sweet Pea-Shurb
<i>Prunus avium</i> (L.) L.	Sweet Cherry/Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus dulcis</i> (Mill.) D.A. Webb	Sweet Almond
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> L.	Italian Buckthorn/Barren Privet
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L.	Rosemary
<i>Spartium junceum</i> L.	Spanish Broom/Weavers Broom (Peri-winkle)
<i>Vinca</i>	Westringia fruticosa (Mint Family)
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> (Willd.) Druce	Westringia (Mint Family)

**Host plants found to be susceptible to several subspecies of *Xylella fastidiosa***

*Coffea* Coffee

**For more information:**

Defra *Xylella fastidiosa* factsheet:

[https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/planthealth/documents/notifiable\\_diseases/xylellaFastidiosa2015.pdf](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/planthealth/documents/notifiable_diseases/xylellaFastidiosa2015.pdf)

Other sources of information include:

European Commission:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/index_en.htm) and

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_health\\_biosecurity/legislation/emergency\\_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/emergency_measures/xylella-fastidiosa/index_en.htm)

EPPO: [http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/special\\_topics/Xylella\\_fastidiosa/Xylella\\_fastidiosa.htm](http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/special_topics/Xylella_fastidiosa/Xylella_fastidiosa.htm)

Pictures of hosts with symptoms at EPPO <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLEFA/photos>

Forestry Commission: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee-h-a3vemx>

## **Suspected outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa***

Suspected outbreaks of *X. fastidiosa* or any other non-native plant pest must be reported to the Plant Health Laboratory at Howard Davis Farm or the Agricultural Inspectorate on 01534 441600.

For additional information on Plant Health please see:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

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