

Annex

New measures to be introduced through the Official Controls and Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2021

Xylella fastidiosa

The measures concern:

- *Coffea* (coffee)
- *Lavandula sp.* (lavender)
- *Nerium oleander*
- *Olea europaea* (olive)
- *Polygala myrtifolia*
- *Prunus dulcis* (almond)
- *Rosmarinus officinalis*¹ (rosemary)

New measures:

Plants for planting, other than seeds², that belong to the genera and species listed in the list of *Xylella* host plants, other than, *Coffea* (coffee), *Lavandula sp.* (lavender), *Nerium oleander*, *Olea europaea* (olive), *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Prunus dulcis* (almond) and *Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary), from all third countries:

The plants must:

(a) have been grown for at least three years or in the case of plants which are younger than three years, have been grown throughout their life, in a country which, is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*

or

(b) have been grown for at least three years before export, or in the case of plants which are younger than three years have been grown throughout their life, in an area that is free from *Xylella fastidiosa*

or

(c) in the case of plants which originate in an area where *Xylella fastidiosa* is not known to be absent, have been produced in a site that is:

- authorised as a site that is free from *Xylella fastidiosa* and its vectors,
- physically protected against the introduction of *Xylella fastidiosa*,
- surrounded by a zone with a width of 100 m where plants found to be infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* removed, and appropriate treatments against the vectors have been applied,

¹ Rosemary has recently been reclassified as a species of Sage - *Salvia rosmarinus* Spenn..

² The published measures currently state 'those' rather than 'seeds' within this specific provision. This will be corrected as the legislation comes into force on 4th March 2021.

- treatments to maintain freedom from the vectors have been carried out
- at least two official inspections during the flight season of the vectors have been carried out.
- neither symptoms of *Xylella fastidiosa* or its vectors were found in the site or 100m zone surrounding it, if suspect symptoms were observed, testing was carried out to confirm the absence of *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- inspection and testing prior to export.

Plants intended for planting other than seeds, of *Coffea* sp. and *Polygala myrtifolia*, from any third country:

- (a) have been grown for at least three years or in the case of plants which are younger than three years, have been grown throughout their life, in a country which, is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- or
- (b) have been grown for at least three years before export, or in the case of plants which are younger than three years have been grown throughout their life, in an area that is free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- and in the case of *Polygala myrtifolia*
- (c) each lot of plants of *Polygala myrtifolia* has been subjected in addition to official visual inspection, sampling and testing.

Plants intended for planting other than seeds, of *Lavandula* sp., *Nerium oleander* and *Rosmarinus officinalis*, from any third country:

- (a) have been grown for at least three years or in the case of plants which are younger than three years, have been grown throughout their life, in a country which, is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- or
- or
- (b) in the case of plants which originate in an area where *Xylella fastidiosa* is not known to be absent, have been produced
- a place of production registered and supervised by the national plant protection organisation for a period of at least one year before the export of the plants
 - the place of production and a 200m zone surrounding it is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.
 - the plants have been subjected to an annual official inspection sampling and testing to confirm the absence of *Xylella fastidiosa*
 - immediately before their export, the plants were subjected to an official visual inspection for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* where any symptoms are observed, testing should be carried out.
 - the plants have been grown under physical protection

Plants intended for planting other than seeds and plants grown for their entire production cycle in vitro, of *Olea europaea* and *Prunus dulcis* from any third country

(a) have been grown for least three years or in the case of plants which are younger than three years, have been grown throughout their life, in a country which, is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.

or

(b) in the case of plants which originate in an area where *Xylella fastidiosa* is not known to be absent, plants have been produced in:

- place of production registered and supervised by the national plant protection organisation for a period of at least one year before the export of the plants
- the place of production and a 200m zone surrounding it is known to be free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- the plants have been subjected to an annual official inspection sampling and testing to confirm the absence of *Xylella fastidiosa*
- immediately before their export, the plants were subjected to an official visual inspection for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* where any symptoms are observed, testing should be carried out.
- Plant have been grown under physical protection



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Date: 15 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you of new legislation that will come into force on 4 March 2021, amending the retained Phytosanitary Controls Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072), to address the plant health threat posed by *Xylella*.

These changes apply GB wide and represent an important step in setting plant health legislation which is tailored to UK risks. The changes have been identified as priorities for improving the UK's plant biosecurity, in response to known threats, thereby protecting UK business, society and the environment in the short term, as well as in the future.

Earlier *Xylella* measures had been developed on the basis of a UK pest risk analysis and in consultation with the Plant Health Advisory Forum and individual businesses. Stakeholders supported the measures. Given the UK's relationship with the EU it has only been possible to introduce such measures as agreed now the transition period has ended, while also taking into account the ongoing risk associated with *Xylella*.

The measures being introduced will be GB wide, following consent from the devolved administrations. These reflect the required measures as regards to the desired level of protection for plants imported from countries and areas where *Xylella* is present, while also avoiding unnecessary new burdens for those countries where *Xylella* is not present. In addition, options are included where there is a high level of assurance that imports are from areas where *Xylella* is not present. The Plant Health Advisory Forum remains supportive of stronger requirements for this disease.

Xylella fastidiosa

Xylella fastidiosa ("*Xylella*") is a bacterium which causes disease in a wide range of woody commercially grown plants such as grapevine, citrus, olive and several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the UK, as well as many shrubs and herbaceous plants. Outbreaks of the disease have occurred in Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Portugal. There is considered to be a particular risk of introducing *Xylella* with olive, almond, lavender, rosemary, coffee and polygala plants, and these are the hosts which would be subject to additional requirements. Outbreaks in southern Italy have devastated olive production and have had major social and economic impacts. Substantial impacts have been observed elsewhere, both on businesses affected and more generally. The pathogen is not known to be present in the UK, but we remain concerned about the possibility of *Xylella* arriving in the UK on high risk hosts, such as olive, and those plant species commonly

associated with outbreaks in the EU. The long latency period of *Xylella* means that, without additional requirements, it could be carried into non-infected countries via imports of plants, long before the infection is identified.

Xylella is continuing to spread in Europe. In September 2018, *Xylella* was confirmed in three symptomatic olive trees in Belgium, which had originated from Spain in May 2018. Spain has not been able to trace the source of infection. In August 2020, a new outbreak in lavender nurseries in the Occitanie region of France was identified, with further findings associated with that outbreak confirmed subsequently. There have also been further findings in 2020 in Italy and Spain. The uncertain distribution and ongoing findings in other European countries indicate an ongoing risk of disease spread.

We are therefore increasing restrictions and requirements for the import of high risk *Xylella* host plants to reduce the chances that *Xylella* is introduced into GB. The aim of these measures is to enhance the level of protection against the risk of entry of *Xylella* into GB via imported plants.

The current measures on *Xylella fastidiosa* (based on retained EU law) do not address the risks highlighted in the updated Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) available at: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/pras/Xylella-Draft-PRA.pdf>.

The new measures apply to those countries (including EU Member States) where *Xylella* is known to be present and will include the requirements set out below:

- Only allow imports of *Coffea* (coffee) and *Polygala* from countries where *Xylella* is known not to occur.
- Introduce more stringent requirements for the import of *Lavendula* sp. (lavender), *Nerium oleander*, *Olea europaea* (olive), *Prunus dulcis* (almond), and *Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary) from countries where *Xylella* is known to occur. We will allow imports under certain conditions including inspections of the place of production and the surrounding area, testing, pre-export inspections and a one-year quarantine period prior to import.

The existing requirements for high risk plants from countries where *Xylella* is not known to occur will be retained, which include annual official inspection, with sampling and testing of the plants concerned.

A copy of the regulations is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2021/136>. They come into force on 4 March 2021.

The important point to note for businesses is that the relevant plants have been grown in approved premises and, where required, details have been supplied to the UK Plant Health Services by the competent authority of the exporting country, so that the phytosanitary (health) certificate can state the prescribed requirements have been met.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spence', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nicola Spence
Chief Plant Health Officer for the UK

Highest risk Xylella hosts

Coffee

Polygala myrtifolia

Lavandula

Nerium oleander

Rosmarinus officinalis

Prunus dulcis

Olea europaea

Table 1. Species or Genera* which have been found to be susceptible to more than one sub-species of Xylella in the EU

*Genera used where more than one susceptible species

	Fastidiosa	Multiplex	Pauca	Other risk factors
Acer	x	x		Anoplophora chinensis Anoplophora glabripennis
Acacia		x	x	
Ambrosia	x	x		
Asparagus acutifolius		x	x	
Calicotome	x	x		
Cercis	x	x		
Cistus	x	x	x	
Citrus	x		x	Anoplophora chinensis
Dimorphoteca		x	x	
Dodonaea viscosa		x	x	
Erigeron		x	x	
Genista	x	x		
Grevillea juniperina		x	x	
Hebe		x	x	
Laurus nobilis		x	x	
Lupinus	x	x		
Magnolia grandiflora	x	x		
Medicago	x	x		
Metrosideros	x	x		
Morus	x	x		
Myrtus		x	x	
Osteospermum		x	x	
Pelargonium		x	x	
Phillyrea		x	x	
Prunus	x	x	x	Anoplophora chinensis (Prunus laurocerasus) Aromia bungii

Rhamnus alaternus	x	x	x	
Rubus	x	x		
Sambucus	x	x		
Spartium	x	x	x	
Ulmus	x	x		Anoplophora chinensis Anoplophora glabripennis
Vinca	x	x	x	
Westringia		x	x	

Table 2. Specified plants susceptible to Xylella fastidiosa subspecies fastidiosa

Erysimum	Juglans regia L.	Malva parviflora L.	Pluchea odorata (L.) Cass.	Streptocarpus
Teucrium capitatum L.	Vitis			

Table 3. Specified plants susceptible to Xylella fastidiosa subspecies multiplex (those highlighted in yellow identified as at risk due to another pest)

Alnus rhombifolia Nutt.	Ampelopsis cordata Michx.	Anthyllis hermanniae L.	Artemisia	Baccharis halimifolia L.
Callistemon citrinus (Curtis) Skeels	Calluna vulgaris (L.) Hull	Carya	Celtis occidentalis L.	Chionanthus
Clematis cirrhosa L.	Convolvulus cneorum L.	Coprosma repens A. Rich.	Coronilla glauca (L.) Batt.	Coronilla valentina L.
Cytisus	Elaeagnus angustifolia L.	Encelia farinosa Gray ex Torr.	Euryops chrysanthemoides (DC.) B.Nord.	Euryops pectinatus (L.) Cass.
Fallopia japonica (Houtt.) Ronse Decr.	Ficus carica L.	Frangula alnus Mill.	Fraxinus	Ginkgo biloba L.
Gleditsia triacanthos L.	Helianthus	Helichrysum flex aquifolium L. Iva annua L.	Koeleruteria bipinnata Franch.	Lagerstroemia
Liquidambar styraciflua L.	Myrtus communis L.	Phagnalon saxatile (L.) Cass.	Phlomis fruticosa L.	Pistacia vera L.
Plantago lanceolata L.	Platanus	Polygala x grandiflora Nana	Pterospartum tridentatum (L.) Willk.	Quercus
Ratibida columnifera (Nutt.) Wooton & Standl.	Robinia pseudoacacia L.	Rosa	Salvia mellifera Greene	Santolina chamaecyparissus L.
Sapindus saponaria L.	Solidago virgaurea L.	Strelitzia reginae Aiton	Ulex	Vaccinium

Xanthium strumarium L.				
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Table 4. Specified plants susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *pauca*

Amaranthus retroflexus L.	Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don	Chamaesyce canescens (L.) Prokh.	Chenopodium album L.	Eremophila maculata (Ker Gawler) F. von Müller.
Euphorbia chamaesyce L.	Euphorbia terracina L.	Heliotropium europaeum L.	Hibiscus	Myoporum insulare Br.
Myrtus communis L.				

Table 5. Host list of *Xylella fastidiosa* - summary

Acacia	Acer	Albizia julibrissin	Alnus rhombifolia	Amaranthus retroflexus
Ambrosia	Ampelopsis arborea	Ampelopsis brevipedunculata	Ampelopsis cordata	Anthyllis hermanniae
Artemisia	Asparagus acutifolius	Baccharis	Brassica	Calicotome spinosa
Calicotome villosa	Callicarpa americana	Callistemon citrinus	Calluna vulgaris	Carya
Catharanthus	Celtis occidentalis	Cercis canadensis	Cercis occidentalis	Cercis siliquastrum
Chamaecrista fasciculata	Chamaesyce canescens	Chenopodium album	Chionanthus	Chitalpa tashkentensis
Cistus	Citrus	Clematis cirrhosa	Coelorachis cylindrica	Coffea
Conium maculatum	Convolvulus cneorum	Coprosma repens	Coronilla glauca	Coronilla valentina
Cyperus eragrostis	Cytisus	Digitaria	Dimorphoteca	Diospyros kaki
Diplocyclos palmatus	Dodonaea viscosa	Elaeagnus angustifolia	Encelia farinose	Eremophila maculata
Erigeron	Erodium moschatum	Erysimum	Euphorbia chamaesyce	Euphorbia terracina
Euryops chrysanthemoides	Euryops pectinatus	Fagus crenata	Fallopia japonica	Fatsia japonica
Ficus carica	Frangula alnus	Fraxinus	Genista	Ginkgo biloba
Gleditsia triacanthos	Grevillea juniperina	Hebe	Helianthus	Heliotropium europaeum
Hemerocallis	Hevea brasiliensis	Helichrysum	Hibiscus	Humulus scandens

Ilex aquifolium	Ilex vomitoria	Iva annua	Jacaranda mimosifolia	Juglans
Juniperus ashei	Koelreuteria bipinnata	Lagerstroemia	Laurus nobilis	Lavandula
Ligustrum lucidum	Liquidambar styraciflua	Lonicera japonica	Lupinus	Magnolia grandiflora
Mallotus paniculatus	Malva parviflora	Medicago arborea	Medicago sativa	Metrosideros
Mimosa	Modiola caroliniana	Morus	Myoporum insulare	Myrtus communis
Nandina domestica	Neptunia lutea	Nerium oleander	Olea	Osteospermum ecklonis
Osteospermum fruticosum	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Paspalum dilatatum	Pelargonium	Persea americana
Phagnalon saxatile	Phillyrea angustifolia	Phillyrea latifolia	Phlomis fruticosa	Phoenix reclinata
Phoenix roebelenii	Pinus taeda	Pistacia vera	Plantago lanceolata	Platanus
Pluchea odorata	Polygala myrtifolia	Polygala x grandiflora	Prunus	Pterospartum tridentatum
Pyrus	Quercus	Ratibida columnifera	Rhamnus alaternus	Rhus
Robinia pseudoacacia	Rosa	Rosmarinus officinalis	Rubus	Salvia mellifera
Sambucus	Santolina chamaecyparissus	Sapindus saponaria	Sassafras	Setaria magna
Solidago fistulosa	Solidago virgaurea	Sorghum halepense	Spartium	Stewartia pseudocamellia
Strelitzia reginae	Streptocarpus	Symphotrichum divaricatum	Teucrium capitatum	Trifolium repens
Ulex	Ulmus	Vaccinium	Vinca	Vitis
Westringia fruticosa	Westringia glabra	Xanthium strumarium		