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**To:** IPPC contact points

## **Emergency Measures: *Xylella fastidiosa***

I am writing to inform you of new legislation that will come into force on 4 March 2021, amending The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, to address the plant health threat posed by *Xylella*.

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. An emergency notification has been submitted to the WTO.

### ***Xylella fastidiosa***

The UK has significant concerns about the risk of plant material infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* being imported into GB. 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 will 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. 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 be detected in Europe and elsewhere. The uncertain distribution and ongoing findings 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 GB measures on *Xylella fastidiosa* 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 will include the requirements set out below:

- Only allow imports of *Polygala* and *Coffea* from countries where *Xylella* is known not to occur.
- Introduce more stringent requirements for the import of Olive, Almond, Lavender, Rosemary and *Nerium oleander* 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 summary of the new requirements can be found in the annex sent with this letter and 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.

## Annex

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

#### *Xylella fastidiosa*

##### The measures concern:

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

##### New measures:

Plants for planting, other than seeds<sup>2</sup>, that belong to the genera and species listed in the list of *Xylella* host plants, other than, *Olea europaea* (olive), *Coffea* (coffee), *Lavandula sp.* (lavender), *Nerium oleander*, *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,

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

<sup>2</sup> The published measures currently state 'those' rather than 'seeds' within this specific provision. This will be corrected as the legislation comes into force on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 *Salvia Rosmarinus*, 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) in the case of plants which originate in an area where *Xylella fastidiosa* is not known to be absent, have been produced
- in 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:

- 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