

Plant Imports – High Risk (*Xylella fastidiosa*)

FACTSHEET



Xylella fastidiosa is one of the key high-profile diseases of concern relating to plant imports in the UK currently. It is a bacterium which causes disease in a wide range of commercially grown, woody plants. It has spread, causing a serious impact, in Europe on hosts such as olive and grapevine. It has the potential to attack several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the UK, as well as shrubs and herbaceous plants. The disease is not currently known to be present in the UK. However, the long period between infection by *Xylella* and symptoms appearing (a period known as latency) means that it could be carried into non-infected countries, via plant imports, long before

the infection is identified. Key hosts at risk can be [found here](#). More details on vectors and management can be [found here](#).



Olive trees infested with Xylella fastidiosa

The safety measures, amongst other items, include the following requirements:

- 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) (reclassified as Salvia rosmarinus) from countries where *Xylella* is known to occur. Imports may be allowed under certain conditions that include



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inspections of source and the surrounding area, testing, pre-export inspections and quarantine 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.
- **Always use import sources that provide a phytosanitary certificate.**

More information and links relating to importing risks can be [found here](#).

For general import and export guidance surrounding plant passports and phytosanitary certificates see the following factsheet.



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