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Food & Rural Affairs



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Xylella, what you need to know and do



Yellowing of leaf tip (*Xylella fastidiosa*) on Rosemary.

Photo: Fera Science Ltd



Browning of leaf edges (*Xylella fastidiosa*) on *Acer negundo*.

Photo: John Hartman, University of Kentucky

Xylella fastidiosa; the facts:

- *Xylella* is a bacterial disease which can kill plants by stopping them taking up water.
- At present *Xylella* is NOT known to be present in the UK but it can affect a large range of plants.
- *Xylella* has been reported in southern Italy, France including Corsica, Spain including Balearic Islands, as well as several non-EU countries.
- The symptoms of *Xylella* are difficult to spot as they are similar to those caused by heat stress on leaves (see pictures above for *Xylella* symptoms).

What you can do:

- Before buying a plant check which country it originated from. Don't risk buying plants where the origin is unknown.
- Purchase plants from a garden centre, nursery or shop that can assure you that their plants were sourced from a *Xylella* free area.
- Don't panic if you see symptoms that look like *Xylella* – first think whether they could be due to hot weather, drought, stem/root damage or frost damage.
- Check when the plant was purchased, as those imported in the last couple of years represent the highest risk.

Follow the QR code or links below for further information about *Xylella*.



Further information;

Defra plant health portal *Xylella* factsheet:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/ph-api/pests/12570/notices/6686/documents/4190/document>

High risk host plants of *Xylella*:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Xylella-host-info-note-ver6.pdf>

If you have serious concerns that your plants are infected with *Xylella* then please contact your relevant plant health officials:

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 01904 405138

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection

Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

**Please don't bring
plants, flowers, fruit
or vegetables back
into the UK.**

They can carry pests and diseases that would destroy UK plants and crops.

