Irish Plant Health Trade Initiative

The aim of the initiative is to develop an industry-wide support of actions, to protect Ireland’s clean, green and pest free image and high plant health status. The initiative has been developed between Teagasc, Bord Bia and the Irish hardy Nursery Stock Association. Ireland has protected zone status for 22 insects, pathogens etc. that are present in continental Europe. This sets Ireland out form other countries in having the fewest plant pathogens in Europe. Having seen the severe ecological and economic impact that can be caused by outbreaks of new diseases; producers and retailers are wise to take preventative action.

Growers and industry stakeholders are asked to make a commitment to adopt the following actions and to undertake training:

1. Low-risk zones
	* Ensure you source your plant material carefully
	* Purchase plants grown in and supplied from zone/areas of low risk i.e. regions where notifiable threats have not been detected
	* Avoid [demarcated areas for](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/ph_biosec_legis_list-demarcated-union-territory_en.pdf) *[Xylella](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/ph_biosec_legis_list-demarcated-union-territory_en.pdf)*
2. Suppliers
	* Discuss with suppliers plant health and biosecurity actions
	* Visit suppliers where feasible
	* Ensure accompanied by Valid Plant Passport
3. Inspect and isolate new stock
	* ideally 100m+ from the production facility
	* undertake training to on symptom recognition
4. Close cooperation
	* Regular and timely inspection of all species of concern from national plant health authority DAFM
	* Immediately alert DAFM of plants with suspected
5. Training
	* Minimum of 1 specialised employee who will undertake training in the most recent developments in plant health delivered by a national body.

Of foremost concern is *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterial pathogen that has caused decimation of some crops and for which there is no treatment. It was first reported in the EU in 2013 and since then three strains have been found in Italy, Germany, France, mainland Spain and the Balearics. It has a very wide host range of over 200 plants and has numerous suitable hosts in the Irish environment. It is predicted based on experiences from the USA that the climate in Ireland would be suitable for the disease to establish in limited parts of the country.

Faced with the **serious threat** that *Xylella* poses to European plant health the EU has put in place emergency control measure including the destruction of stock and wide buffer zones with restricted trading for up to 5 years.

From March 1st EU emergency legislation will apply to the trade of the 6 most important hosts of *Xylella*: *Polygala myrtifolia, Prunus dulcis, Coffea, Olea europaea, Lavandula dentata* and *Nerium oleander*. All traders buying or selling these plants must issue and retain passports where the plants are being supplied to another business such as landscapers, designers and retailers including where the final user imports them directly.

There are a number of other threats already established in Europe that have not arrived in Ireland. The most likely route for their arrival into Ireland is through the trade of plants or wood packaging material.

The Bord Bia Horticulture Quality Assurance program, of which many growers are already members, covers key plant health areas such as labelling and traceability, production planning, production hygiene and biosecurity.

European and national legislation is in place to protect the environment and trade. Plant passports are the fudamental principal which governs plant health and trade. All hosts of Xylella must be accompanied by a plant passport - see below. From March 1st 2018 the 6 most susceptible host plants of Xylella must have fully completed plant passport and can only be moved, once they have been officially sampled prior to movement/sale. Growers must record sales to other traders of plant passported stock and label all batches of plants including supplier details or traceable code

Figure 1 Potential establishment zones for Xylella based on minimum temperatures Navas-Cortés, J.A. unpublished; climatic data https://www.climond.org/

**Useful websites**

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Information on national plant trade requirements can be found here.

[www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int)

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Most up-to-date information on a wide range plant health issues.

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| ***Xylella fastidiosa - irrespective of the subspecies*****Host plants found to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa* in the European Union Territory  Most recent update 15.02.2018** | ***Xylella fastidiosa subsp. Multiplex*** | ***Xylella fastidiosa subsp. pauca*** |
| *Calicotome spinosa (L.) Link* | *Acacia dealbata Link* | *Acacia saligna (Labill.) Wendl* |
| *Coffea* | *Acacia saligna (Labill.) Wendl* | *Asparagus acutifolius L.* |
| *Genista lucida Cambess.* | *Acer pseudoplatanus L.* | *Catharanthus* |
| *Juglans regia L.* | *Anthyllis hermanniae L.* | *Chenopodium album L.* |
| *Lavandula dentata L.* | *Artemisia arborescens L.* | *Cistus creticus L.* |
| *Nerium oleander L.* | *Asparagus acutifolius L.* | *Dodonaea viscosa Jacq.* |
| *Polygala myrtifolia L.* | *Calicotome villosa (Poiret) Link* | *Eremophila maculata F. Muell.* |
| *Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A. Webb* | *Cercis siliquastrum L.* | *Erigeron bonariensis L.* |
| *Rhamnus alaternus L.* | *Cistus creticus L.* | *Erigeron sumatrensis Retz.* |
| *Rosmarinus officinalis L.* | *Cistus monspeliensis L.* | *Euphorbia terracina L.* |
|  | *Cistus salviifolius L.* | *Grevillea juniperina L.* |
| ***Xylella fastidiosa subsp. fastidiosa*** | *Coronilla glauca L.* | *Heliotropium europaeum L.* |
| *Cistus mospeliensis L.* | *Coronilla valentina L.* | *Laurus nobilis L.* |
| *Erysimum* | *Cytisus scoparius (L.) Link* | *Lavandula angustifolia Mill.* |
| *Prunus avium L.* | *Cytisus villosus Pourr.* | *Lavandula stoechas L.* |
| *Streptocarpus* | *Euryops chrysanthemoides (DC.) B.Nord.* | *Myoporum insulare R. Br.* |
| *Vitis vinifera L.* | *Ficus carica L.* | *Myrtus communis L.* |
|  | *Fraxinus angustifolia Vahl* | *Olea europaea L.* |
|  | *Genista x spachiana (syn. Cytisus racemosus Broom)* | *Pelargonium x fragrans* |
|  | *Genista corsica (Loisel.) DC.* | *Phillyrea latifolia L.* |
|  | *Genista ephedroides DC.* | *Prunus avium (L.) L.* |
|  | *Hebe* | *Rhamnus alaternus* |
|  | *Helichrysum italicum (Roth) G. Don* | *Spartium junceum L.* |
|  | *Lavandula angustifolia Mill.* | *Vinca* |
|  | *Lavandula dentata L.* | *Westringia fruticosa (Willd.) Druce* |
|  | *Lavandula stoechas L.* | *Westringia glabra L.* |
|  | *Lavandula x allardii (syn. Lavandula x heterophylla)* |  |
|  | *Lavandula x intermedia* |  |
|  | *Medicago sativa L.* |  |
|  | *Metrosideros excelsa Sol. ex Gaertn.* |  |
|  | *Myrtus communis L.* |  |
|  | *Olea europaea L.* |  |
|  | *Pelargonium graveolens L'Hér* |  |
|  | *Phagnalon saxatile (L.) Cass.* |  |
|  | *Prunus cerasifera Ehrh.* |  |
|  | *Prunus domestica L.* |  |
|  | *Prunus cerasus L.* |  |
|  | *Quercus suber L.* |  |
|  | *Rosa canina L.* |  |
|  | *Spartium junceum L.* |  |
|  | *Westringia fruticosa (Willd.) Druce* |  |

# Plant Health Training

The programme will deliver the most up to date information on the key emerging plant health threats. There will be a specific focus on Xylella; looking in detail at the diseases, its vectors, and hosts. Training will be registered with IASIS and will awarded appropriate points.

Insect, bacterial and fungal diseases – overview

Plant Health Control systems

* Plant passport requirements,
* Review changes for March 1st 2018 and end of 2019 and impact on plant producers

Hygiene – best practice guidance and demonstrations

Epidemiology

* What does an epidemic look like and how can it be controlled

Emerging threats:

Insects

* *Anoplophora glabripennis* Asian Long Horn beetle
* *Thaumetopoea processionea* Oak processionary moth
* *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Palm Weevil
* *Paysandisia archon* Palm borer
* *Cydalima perspectalis* Box moth
* *Agrilus planipennis* Emerald ash borer
* Dendroctonus micans Great spruce bark beetle

Fungi

* Phytophthora species: *P. cambivora P. gonapodyides P. ramorum, P. austrocedri*, *P. siskiyouensis*
* *Cryphonectria parasitica* Castanea Blight
* *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* Ash dieback

Bacteria

* *Xylella*
* Disease review, identification and control strategies
* Vector identification and control strategies
* Hosts review of native and trade hosts and alternative options
* *Xanthomonas arboricola*
* *Pseudomonas syringae*

# Plants requiring Plant passports

### (1)Fireblight (Erwinia amylovora) host material as follows (Latin name or Common name)

* *Amelanchier* or Serviceberry
* *Chaenomeles* or Lindl Quince
* *Cydonia* mill or Quince
* Cotoneaster
* *Crataegus* L. or Whitethorn, Hawthorn
* *Eriobotrya* or Loquat
* *Malus* Mill or Apple/Crap Apple including ornamental
* *Mespilus* or Medlar
* *Pyracantha* orFirethorn
* *Pyrus* or Pear including ornamental
* *Sorbus* L. orRowan, Mountain Ash, Whitebeam etc.
* *Photinia* or davidiana Photinia

### (2) Plants of Populus L. (Poplars)

### (3) Plants of Conifers as follows

* *Abies* orFir
* *Larix* or *L*arch
* *Pinus* or Pine
* *Picea* or Spruce
* *Pseudotsuga* or Douglas Fir

### (4) Palm plants

### (5) Plants of *Prunus* species (plums, cherries, almonds, apricots, laurel, blackthorn, damson etc.)

### (6)Plants of *Rhododendron* species (other than *Rhododendron simsii*), *Viburnum* species and *Camellia* species.

### (7) Plants of *Fortunella, Poncirus* and Citrus spp. and their hybrids,

### (8) Plants of *Humulus lupulus* (Golden Hop) and *Vitis* spp. (Vine)

(9) *Xylella fastidiosa* host plants

Plants of fireblight host*, Populus* spp and of the conifers, listed at (1) to (4) above, must be accompanied by plant passports valid for the protected zone of Ireland.

The other plants, listed at (4) to (9), must be accompanied by plant passports valid for movement of such material within the European Union.