

NEW MEASURES FOR XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA ON IMPORTED NURSERY STOCK

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for setting the import measures that must be met when importing nursery stock into New Zealand. The import measures are put in place to prevent the entry of new pests and diseases that may threaten New Zealand's environment, economy, or human health.

MPI's recent assessment identified a number of changes to be made to the nursery stock import health standard (IHS), to strengthen the measures for *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xf) on imported host material.

These measures have been put in place urgently, under section 24B of the Biosecurity Act. These measures come into effect immediately and all importers are required to comply with the new measures. All consignments with a phytosanitary certificate issued on or after 22nd December 2016 must be endorsed with the new additional declaration.

For consignments already in transit, phytosanitary certificates issued on or before 21st December 2016 will be accepted using the previously acceptable additional declaration. However, for consignments originating in Europe, the America's, Caribbean, Iran, India, or Taiwan, the consignment must undergo pre-determined testing for Xf during the Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) period in New Zealand.

Some background information about Xf can be found here: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/priority-pests-plant-aquatic/horticultural-pests/bacterial-leaf-scorch/> and a summary of the new import measures are included below.

Emergency measures have previously been made to the nursery stock IHS as new information on Xf has become available. The IHS 155.02.06: Importation of Nursery Stock was urgently amended in June 2014 to regulate hosts from all countries where Xf is known to occur. The IHS 155.02.06 was also urgently amended in May 2016 based on further reports to MPI's emerging risk system, including reports of Xf from France and reports of new host plants in Europe.

Since MPI implemented emergency measures for Xf in 2014, many countries have notified via the WTO-SPS Information Management System that emergency measures have been adopted on plant imports for Xf. This includes updates for Australia and the European Union.

What has changed?

There has been a change in geographic distribution.

Recent emergence of Xf into Europe and its rapid spread has greatly increased the awareness of the threat this pathogen poses to agriculture and the environment. Xf was first identified in Italy in 2013, with the IHS updated in 2014 to prevent hosts being imported from Italy unless they were tested in PEQ. Since 2013, Xf has been identified in France, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland. At least three separate strains of Xf have been identified in Europe, which shows that not only has it spread in Europe (particularly in France), but also that there have been multiple introductions of the pathogen into Europe.

New hosts have been discovered.

The known host range of Xf is expanding rapidly, particularly as the bacterium moves into new areas, where new vectors and plant species are present.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/priority-pests-plant-aquatic/horticultural-pests/bacterial-leaf-scorch/>

What are the new requirements?

Imports of host species (imported as whole plants, cuttings, and dormant bulbs) will be immediately affected by this amendment.

New hosts of Xf

The list of known hosts, reported from published literature, has been updated. Measures for whole plants, cuttings, and dormant bulbs of the identified species will come into effect immediately.

As of immediately, measures will be required for all species in a genus, when a single species has been identified as a host. The plant biosecurity index has now been updated to include these changes.

See APPENDIX 1 for a list of all the genera that have been affected by the changes to Xf regulations (including genera that contain newly recognised hosts).

Which Countries are not recognised by MPI as free from Xf?

MPI no longer recognises any countries in Europe, the America's and the Caribbean, as well as India, Iran, and Taiwan to be free of Xf.

Plants of host species which are sourced from any country in Europe, the America's and the Caribbean, as well as India, Iran, and Taiwan are to have mandatory testing in PEQ in New Zealand. Previously Xf host plant material could be imported from a number of countries in Europe, the America's and the Caribbean without testing in PEQ.

The following countries are not recognised by MPI as free from Xf:

- **All countries in Europe, the America's and the Caribbean**
- **Asia:** India, Taiwan
- **Near East:** Iran

The full list of countries which are not recognised by MPI as free from Xf can be viewed in APPENDIX 2.

An additional declaration is required on the phytosanitary certificate if importing Xf host material. The wording for additional declarations has been altered to clearly identify MPI's expectations regarding freedom from Xf, and how the plants have been produced.

The following additional declaration is required for host material from countries recognised by MPI as free from Xf:

"The plants in this consignment have only been grown in, and exported from, the country of origin, [insert country name], which is free from Xylella fastidiosa"

The following additional declaration is required for host material from countries not recognised by MPI as free from Xf:

“The plants in this consignment have only been grown in a “Pest free area” [insert area name] or “Pest free place of production” [insert place name], which is free from Xylella fastidiosa”.

Testing in PEQ

All plants that require testing for Xf will need to remain in Level 2 PEQ for a minimum of 6 months (unless a higher level of PEQ is required in the schedule of special conditions), where they will be tested with PCR at the end of the summer period.

Many host species may be infected without developing symptoms, so growing season inspection is not suitable to ensure that imported plants are free from Xf.

What do the changes mean for bulb importers?

Dormant bulbs considered by MPI to be Xf hosts, imported from countries not recognized as free from Xf, must be imported into Level 2 PEQ for testing. This change applies to the following schedules: *Canna* and *Ranunculus*

Canna and *Ranunculus* dormant bulbs imported from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom will no longer be eligible to receive clearance on arrival or imported into Level 1 PEQ into New Zealand.

Verbena

Entry conditions for dormant bulbs has been removed from the *Verbena* schedule.

More information

- The full import conditions can be viewed in the import health standard 155.02.06: Importation of Nursery Stock (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1152>)
- MPI's Plant Imports team: plantimports@mpi.govt.nz

APPENDIX 1:

The table below lists all the genera affected by the changes to import conditions due to Xf. All species in the listed genera are regulated for Xf.

Genera	Schedule of the IHS regulating the genera
Phoenix	<i>Acrocomia</i> or Phoenix
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Arbutus</i>
<i>Laurus</i>	<i>Arbutus</i>
<i>Asparagus</i>	<i>Asparagus</i>
<i>Carya</i>	<i>Carya</i>
<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>Carya ovata</i>
<i>Convolvulus</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Crepis</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Geranium</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Phyllanthus</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Salvia</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Senecio</i>	<i>Delphinium</i>
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i>
<i>Fagus</i>	<i>Fagus</i> or <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Ficus</i>
<i>Fragaria</i>	<i>Fragaria</i>
<i>Helianthus</i>	<i>Helianthus</i>
<i>Humulus</i>	<i>Humulus</i>
<i>Juniperus</i>	<i>Juniperus</i>
<i>Metrosideros</i>	<i>Metrosideros</i>
<i>Myrtus</i>	<i>Metrosideros</i>
<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Photinia</i>
<i>Ranunculus</i>	<i>Ranunculus</i>
<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>
<i>Verbena</i>	<i>Verbena</i>
<i>Albizia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Cassia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Catalpa</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Celtis</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Cenchrus</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Cercis</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Cistus</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Coronilla</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Helichrysum</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Hibiscus</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Ilex</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Lavandula</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Ligustrum</i>	<i>Hebe</i>

<i>Lippia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Liriodendron chinense</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Mandevilla</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Marrubium</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Myoporum</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Pennisetum</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Pistacia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Polygala</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Schinus</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Stellaria</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Tillandsia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>
<i>Westringia</i>	<i>Hebe</i>

Appendix 2:

Countries which are not recognised by MPI as free from Xf

Europe

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Guernsey
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jersey
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia – The Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Malta
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

Americas and Caribbean

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- French Guiana
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Martinique
- Mexico
- Montserrat
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela-Bolivian Republic of
- Virgin Islands, British
- Virgin Islands, U.S.

Other Areas/countries

Asia: India, Taiwan

Near East: Iran