

# *Xylella fastidiosa*

HOST:  
SPANISH BROOM



BRIGIT

## What is *Xylella fastidiosa* and why is it so serious?

- ◆ A dangerous bacterium threatening hundreds of species of plants in the UK
- ◆ It is spreading across southern Europe from its origins in the Americas
- ◆ Can be transported by sap-feeding insects such as spittlebugs
- ◆ Causes plant death by blocking water transporting vessels (xylem)
- ◆ Currently no cure

## *Spartium junceum*

- ◆ Medium-sized open deciduous shrub
- ◆ Erect green broom-like shoots
- ◆ Slender green stems bearing sparse, small simple leaves and fragrant pea-like yellow flowers in summer and early autumn



Healthy



Diseased

## What is BRIGIT?

A collaborative project aimed at reducing the risk of a *Xylella* introduction into the UK and mitigating the risks in the event of an outbreak. Please turn over to find out more.

## What to look out for

- ◆ Leaf scorch
- ◆ Desiccation of small branches at top of canopy spreading to the rest of the crown (right)
- ◆ Crown looks burnt
- ◆ Dieback

## Where is the plant from?

- ◆ Plants sourced from infected countries are at a much higher risk of carrying the disease-causing bacterium

## How long have you had the plant?

- ◆ Imports from the last couple of years pose the highest risk



## Do not panic!

There are other reasons for disease symptoms to appear. Consider if the plant is under stress from:

- ◆ Root or stem damage
- ◆ Drought
- ◆ Hot weather
- ◆ Frost
- ◆ Nutrient imbalance

## How to report *Xylella fastidiosa*

Collect together all available details including the host plant name, symptoms, origin, and import history and report your suspicions on TreeAlert at: [bit.ly/210rwfq](https://bit.ly/210rwfq)

Please DO NOT send plant samples to the RHS.

More information on BRIGIT and *Xylella* can be found at: [bit.ly/2UZCV1E](https://bit.ly/2UZCV1E)

Information on the government's response to *Xylella* and other pests and diseases can be found on the UK Plant Health Information Portal at: [planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk](https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk)

