Xylella fastidiosa

HOST: GRAPEVINE



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

Vitis vinifera

- Deciduous climbing shrub
- Flaky bark
- Climbs by tendrils reaching 15–18m high
- Three- or five-lobed, coarsely toothed leaves, 7.5–15cm long and wide, with stalks half as long as the blade, hairy underneath and of variable colour
- Tiny greenish flowers
- Oval or globose fruit







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.



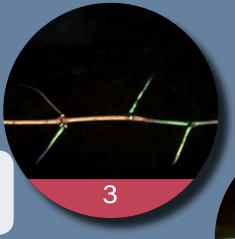
- Marginal leaf scorch 1
- Leaf chlorosis 2
- Premature loss of leaves 3
- Matchstick petioles 3
- Irregular cane maturation (green islands in stems) 4
- Fruit drying and wilting 5
- Stunting of new shoots
- Death of plant in 1-5 years

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
- Sun exposure
 - **Frost**
- **Nutrient imbalance**

Look for a yellow margin between the healthy green and dead brown tissue 1

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

Please DO NOT send plant samples to the RHS.

More information on BRIGIT and Xylella can be found at: 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