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

**Rosmarinus officinalis**

- Bushy shrub with dense, leafy habit
- Variable in size
- Linear dark green leaves 1.5–5cm long have recurved margins and pale, felty undersides
- Flowers usually pale violet-blue and white, but variable from deep blue to paler and white tones, pink or purple
- Flowering starts in spring but is often repeated at differing times of year
- Many selections and cultivars are available

**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
- Yellowing of leaf tips eventually turning brown
- 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/2I0rwfq](bit.ly/2I0rwfq)

Please DO NOT send plant samples to the RHS.

More information on BRIGIT and Xylella can be found at: [bit.ly/2UZCV1E](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](planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk)