

Xylella fastidiosa

HOST: ELM
(*Ulmus* species)



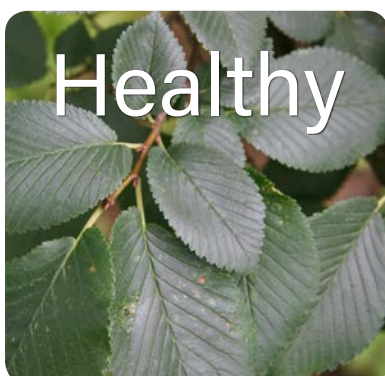
BRIGIT

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

Ulmus spp.

- ◆ Deciduous trees, largely restricted to hedgerows because of Dutch Elm Disease
- ◆ Elliptic or ovate leaves which are rough to the touch on the top surface
- ◆ Leaf bases asymmetric on either side of petiole
- ◆ Twigs can develop unusual corky growth along their lengths
- ◆ Flowers pink/red/purple and occur in tassels or clusters before the leaves appear in early spring
- ◆ Winged fruits develop from the flowers



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 and death of tissue at leaf margins (but not usually along main leaf veins) **1**
- ◆ Distinct yellow demarcation between healthy and unhealthy leaf tissue **2**
- ◆ Patches of chlorotic (yellowing) tissue may be seen on leaves as tissue dies. Dead leaf margins often curl inwards **3**
- ◆ Discoloration of foliage and dieback of twigs and branches in the crown **4**



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

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

