

Xylella fastidiosa

HOST: MAPLE
(*Acer* 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



Acer spp.

- ◆ Deciduous trees or large shrubs
- ◆ Paired, often palmately lobed leaves which can display intense autumn colour and which vary between species
- ◆ Small flowers followed by characteristic winged fruits which vary in size, shape and colour according to species
- ◆ Some species have ornamental bark on stem and branches (e.g. snake bark maple) and others (e.g. field maple) produce corky outgrowths along twigs and branches



What is BRIGIT?

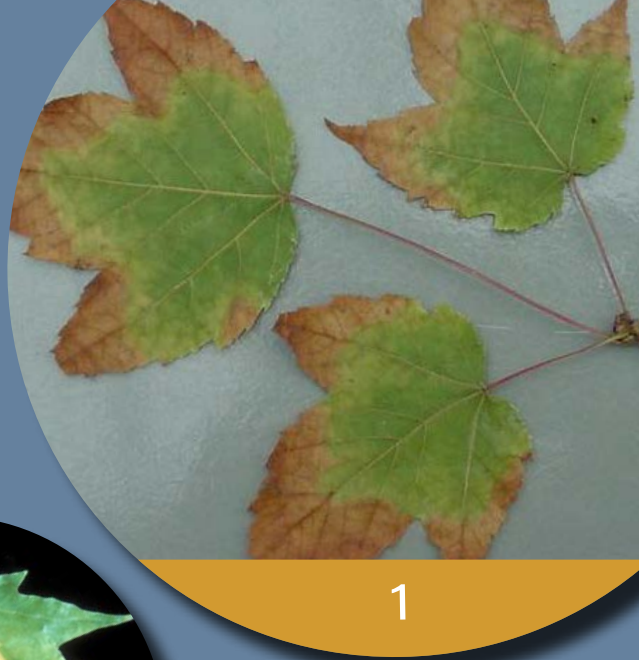
A collaborative project aimed at reducing the risk of a *Xylella* introduction into the UK and mitigating the risks in the event of an outbreak. Please turn over to find out more.

What to look out for

- ◆ Leaf scorch and death of tissue at leaf margins **1**
- ◆ Main leaf veins are usually the last part of the leaf to die **2**
- ◆ Distinct demarcation lines of varying colours, or bands of discoloration can occur between healthy and unhealthy tissue **3**
- ◆ Scorched leaves can curl inwards from the periphery **4**
- ◆ Discoloration of foliage and dieback of twigs and branches in the crown



2



1



3



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

