**Xylella fastidiosa**

**HOST: OAK**
*(Quercus species)*

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**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

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**Quercus spp.**

- Large deciduous or evergreen trees (20–40m depending on species)
- Leaves entire, arranged spirally around shoot. Typically lobed with leaf characteristics varying between species, e.g. red oaks have leaves with toothed lobes
- Leaves may have stalk, e.g. sessile oak, or not, e.g. English oak
- Flowers (usually male) occur as hanging catkins in spring
- Acorns, developing from (often inconspicuous) female flowers, vary according to species, e.g. in sessile oak, acorns are attached directly on the shoot, in English oak they are attached by a stalk. Turkey oak acorns are held in distinctly hairy cups; holm oak acorns have a pointed shape

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**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)
- Distinct yellow demarcation line can occur between healthy and unhealthy tissue, but not in all species of oak
- Patches of chlorotic (yellowing) tissue and bands of colour may be seen on leaves as tissue dies
- Discoloration of scorched leaves in the crown
- Dieback of twigs and branches in the crown

Where is the plant from?

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

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