

How You Can Help

- Do not bring home flowers, fruit, plants, seeds, or vegetables from your travels.
- If you do wish to import plants, please contact hort.marketing@gov.scot to find out what you can do legally.
- If you are carrying any flowers, fruit, plants, seeds or vegetables, declare them to the Customs official



DON'T RISK IT!

By not bringing flowers, fruit, plants, seeds, vegetables or wood products with bark home from your international travels, you can help us to protect our crops and countryside against dangerous plant pests and diseases.



For more information go to

www.sasa.gov.uk/content/cphos

or you can follow the

Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland

 [@plantchiefscot](https://twitter.com/plantchiefscot)

In collaboration with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP/EPPO – www.eppo.int)



This leaflet (DI&P 4075) was prepared by S.Breslin, E: dip@sasa.gov.scot
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Please do not bring, plants, flowers, fruit or vegetables back into the UK



They can carry pests and diseases that would destroy UK plants and crops

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk> 


Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government




Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk


Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Plants can get sick too!

Just like humans and animals, plants can get sick too. They can suffer from diseases caused by viruses, bacteria and fungi, and be attacked by pests which may even be invisible to the naked eye. Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of new pests and diseases being introduced into areas which were previously free of them. Many of these recent introductions can be traced to the rapidly increasing levels of international trade and travel.

Plant pests and diseases can threaten both the economy and biodiversity

Pests and diseases can hitch a ride on plants, seeds, flowers, fruit and vegetables, even if they look healthy. They can even stowaway on soil clinging to roots or hide in untreated wood products. In this way, when we move plants between different parts of the world, we can inadvertently move pests and disease with them. Once introduced into a new environment, some of these alien pests and diseases can cause severe economic losses to agriculture, horticulture and forestry, and threaten biodiversity.

National and international rules are in place

Plant health laws are in place to protect agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the environment. Therefore, many plants and plant products are not allowed to be transported without official authorisation. If you intend to move plants between countries, make sure that you are not infringing these laws by contacting the national plant health authorities beforehand.

Pests and diseases can be present even if you can't see them!

Wood products may seem like a nice present, but they can harbour stowaways.



a.



b.

a. A wooden bowl imported from Thailand - the insert highlights an exit hole spotted in the bark exterior.

b. Citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) is a harmful pest which can be concealed in wood products as an adult, pupa or in its larval stage.



c.

c. This pest would be extremely damaging to a wide range of trees and shrubs in the UK.

There are many threats to Scotland's important potato industry, from potato wart disease to the Colorado Beetle.



a.



b.

a. Potato wart disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum*) affects potato and other *Solanum* species.

b. The UK is free of Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*). This pest has however been intercepted on a range of leafy vegetables being imported into the country.

The bacterial pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* can devastate a wide range of host plants, including our oak trees. If introduced it could be spread by native spittlebugs.



a.



b.

a. Our oak trees are just one of over 500 species threatened by *Xylella*.

b. Spittlebug nymphs can be recognised by their characteristic cuckoo spit shelter.



Protect our plants!