

Xylella fastidiosa

HOST:
OLIVE



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

Olea europaea

- ◆ Evergreen tree
- ◆ Simple, opposite, narrowly obovate or oval leaves up to 7.5cm long, leathery and silvery beneath
- ◆ Rugged, much-branched habit
- ◆ Slow growing, eventually 4.5–9m
- ◆ Very small white flowers are borne in axillary racemes up to 5cm long
- ◆ Fruit rarely produced in Britain
- ◆ Flowers on and off all year round



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

- ◆ Browning of leaf tips and edges (leaf scorch) 2
- ◆ Desiccation of small branches at top of canopy spreading to the rest of the crown 3
- ◆ Crown looks burnt 1
- ◆ Dieback
- ◆ Shriveled fruit 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

For other problems on olive which may present similar symptoms of disease, go to bit.ly/2UXRrXL

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

