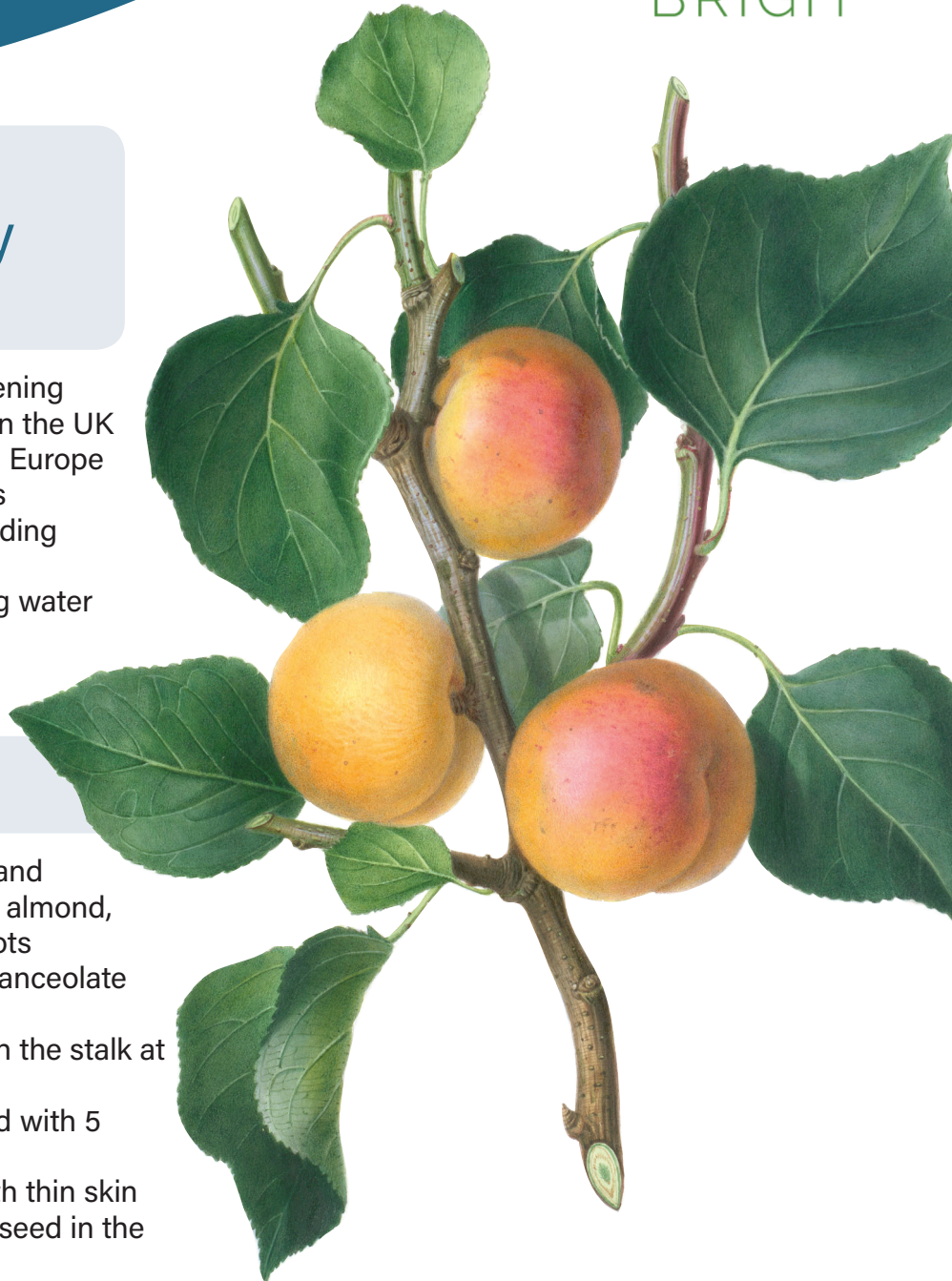# *Xylella fastidiosa*

HOST: PRUNUS

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

Prunus spp.

- Deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs, including cherry, plum, almond, peaches, nectarines and apricots
- Simple, alternate leaves often lanceolate (shaped like a lance)
- Often two glands (nectaries) on the stalk at the leaf base
- Flowers often white, pink or red with 5 petals and sepals
- Produce fleshy fruit (drupe) with thin skin and hard stone containing the seed in the centre

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 decline and wilting **1**
- Leaf chlorosis (yellowing) **2**
- Leaf scorch **3**
- Browning of the leaf edge and tip **4**
- Dieback **5**

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