

# *Xylella fastidiosa*

HOST:  
GRAPEVINE



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



## *Vitis vinifera*

- ◆ Deciduous climbing shrub
- ◆ Flaky bark
- ◆ Climbs by tendrils reaching 15–18m high
- ◆ Three- or five-lobed, coarsely toothed leaves, 7.5–15cm long and wide, with stalks half as long as the blade, hairy underneath and of variable colour
- ◆ Tiny greenish flowers
- ◆ Oval or globose fruit



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

- ◆ Marginal leaf scorch **1**
- ◆ Leaf chlorosis **2**
- ◆ Premature loss of leaves **3**
- ◆ Matchstick petioles **3**
- ◆ Irregular cane maturation (green islands in stems) **4**
- ◆ Fruit drying and wilting **5**
- ◆ Stunting of new shoots
- ◆ Death of plant in 1-5 years

## 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
- ◆ Sun exposure
- ◆ Frost
- ◆ Nutrient imbalance

Look for a yellow margin between the healthy green and dead brown tissue **1**

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk)

