

Xylella fastidiosa

HOST: OAK
(*Quercus* species)



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



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



Healthy



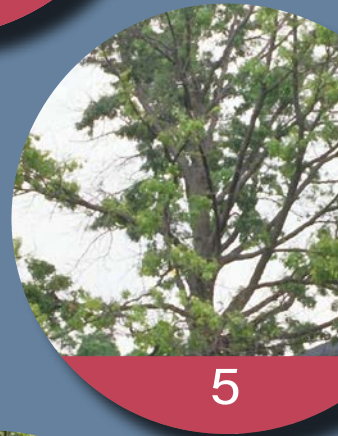
Diseased

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 scorch and death of tissue at leaf margins (but not usually along main leaf veins) **1**
- ◆ Distinct yellow demarcation line can occur between healthy and unhealthy tissue, but not in all species of oak **2**
- ◆ Patches of chlorotic (yellowing) tissue and bands of colour may be seen on leaves as tissue dies **3**
- ◆ Discoloration of scorched leaves in the crown **4**
- ◆ Dieback of twigs and branches in the crown **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

