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Mr Marc Vereecke
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Our ref
2nd April 2007

Dear Marc,

PEST RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

The UK has conducted a number of risk assessments on pests which have been found recently in the UK, or which should be reviewed for other reasons. These pest risk assessments have been made publicly available, at www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pratab.htm and comments have been invited. Following this consultation period, and internal discussions within the UK, we would like to inform the Commission of some cases where, as a result of the PRA, we do not intend to take further action against the pests concerned. In other cases we would like to request that the pest is listed in the annexes of the Plant Health Directive, or that the current listing is changed.

In the list attached the name of the pest is given, followed by a brief explanation of the reason for the PRA, and the suggested outcome from the consultation. Further details are provided in the PRAs themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Ward

Martin G Ward
Plant Health
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
UK



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



UK PEST RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Alternaria* sp. on *Impatiens

An unknown pathogen recorded for the first time causing disease on cultivated *impatiens* at two separate UK nurseries during May 2004. One further report was made in 2005.

The UK will not take statutory action, since the pathogen is controlled by good nursery practice.

***Anoplophora chinensis* (citrus longhorn beetle)**

Adult beetles found emerging in late August 2005 from a large consignment of *Acer palmatum* imported from China (Ningbo) in March that year.

A listed pest. The UK will continue to take statutory action, step up inspections of nursery stock from countries where the pest occurs, and consider emergency action against imports in response to any further interceptions.

***Cerataphis lataniae* (an aphid)**

First intercepted in the UK in 1999 on a consignment of *Archontophoenix alexandra* and *Brahea drandegai*, from South Africa. Since then it has been intercepted twice more; on *Cocos* spp. at a botanic garden, possibly linked to the first interception.

The UK will not take statutory action. The main hosts are not widespread in UK.

***Cercospora carotae* (cercospora leaf blight of carrots)**

First confirmed case of this disease in a UK crop was in December 2005, notified by a consultant. Its presence has been suspected in the past.

The UK will not take statutory action since the pest causes little economic damage.

***Chrysolina americana* (rosemary beetle)**

Live specimens were found south London in May 2000.

The UK will not take statutory action since the pest is now widespread here.

***Chrysophtharta bimaculata* (Tasmanian eucalyptus leaf beetle)**

Four interceptions of this beetle in the UK in 2004 all on tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) imported from Australia.

The UK will continue to take statutory action on interceptions and notify them, but will not seek listing (we believe the main risk is to other Member States).

Clover yellow mosaic virus

Intercepted on plants of *Verbena* imported into the UK in 2004, which originated in USA and from Costa Rica.

The UK will not take statutory action, since the disease is not causing significant damage in the areas where it occurs, and traders in hosts such as *Verbena* are taking measures to secure clean supplies.

***Coleosporium asterum* (Western pine-aster rust)**

Intercepted in 2002 and 2005 on *Solidago* and *Solidaster* flowers from Zimbabwe.

The UK requests listing of this pathogen in Annex IA1 of the Plant Health Directive, with additional measures for host plants from affected areas.

***Cylas formicarius* (sweet potato weevil)**

Interception in 2000 on sweet potato tubers from Dominican Republic.

The UK will take statutory action if intercepted on plants for planting. The main risk is to more southerly Member States.

***Dialeurodes kirkaldyi* (Arabian jasmine whitefly)**

Found in September 2004 on *Jasminum* at a plant importers in Kent, and statutory action taken. There have been at least two previous interceptions of this organism, once in 1978 and once in 1984.

The UK will continue to take statutory action on interceptions on plants, and to attempt eradication of outbreaks.

***Diaphania indica* (cucumber moth)**

Regular interceptions in recent years by UK and Netherlands on *Momordica* produce.

The UK will continue to take statutory action on interceptions on plants for planting, and on outbreaks, if they occur. We will suggest addition to the EPPO alert list.

***Eulecanium excrescens* (wisteria scale)**

Findings from 2002 onwards on established wisteria plants in private gardens in London.

The UK will take no statutory action on existing outbreaks, but statutory action may be taken on interceptions on plants to avoid spread into areas which are currently clear.

***Helcystogramma convolvuli* (sweet potato leaf roller)**

Intercepted three times in 2003 on produce from W Africa.

The UK will take no action, since the main hosts are not widespread in the UK.

***Hemiberlesia rapax* (greedy scale)**

Over twenty findings on imported plants since 1997.

The UK will take no statutory action, but will recommend eradication at outbreak sites. This may be a minor pest under glass, particularly for botanic gardens etc.

Phytophthora lateralis

On the EPPO A1 List. Findings in France (1990s) and Netherlands (2004).

The UK requests addition of this pathogen to Annex IIA1 of the Plant Health Directive, on relevant host plants, and for the pathogen to be taken into account when reviewing measures on soil.

***Planococcus lilacinus* (a mealybug)**

Found in imported consignments from tropical areas on four occasions, including twice in 2004. Its range is expanding and pest status increasing.

The UK will not take statutory action. The pest is unlikely to be a problem in UK except in tropical houses in botanical gardens.

***Pratylenchus mediterraneus* (root lesion nematode)**

Intercepted fourteen times in soil accompanying ware potatoes from Israel between January and May 2005.

The UK will not take statutory action. The pest is likely to be restricted to mediterranean region by temperature requirements.

***Puccinia hemerocallidis* (daylily rust)**

Intercepted in 2001 and 2002 on daylilies imported from the USA.

The UK requests listing in Annex IIA1 of the Plant Health Directive, with measures for plants for planting from countries where the pathogen occurs. Meanwhile the UK will continue to take action against any interceptions.

***Scirtothrips dorsalis* (chilli thrips)**

Increase in the detection of *S. dorsalis* in consignments of produce from India, Kenya, St. Lucia and Thailand during 2005.

The UK proposes extension of the host list in Annex IIA1 of the Plant Health Directive, so this is a regulated pest on all plants for planting, not just citrus plants.

***Tetranychus evansi* (a spider mite)**

Added to the EPPO Alert list in May 2004 after the EPPO Secretariat was informed by the NPPO of France that the organism was spreading within Mediterranean countries.

Intercepted 14 times since April 2005, on *Solanum melongena* fruit from Kenya.

The UK requests listing in Annex IA2 of the Plant Health Directive, or failing that would consider Annex IB (protected zone status). Meanwhile the UK will take statutory action against any findings.

Tomato infectious chlorosis virus

Found recently in Italy, Spain and Greece.

The UK requests listing in Annex IIA2 of the Plant Health Directive – in effect as a candidate RNQP, whose movement should be prohibited on plants for planting.

Meanwhile the UK will take action against findings on plants for planting.

***Trialeurodes abutiloneus* (banded winged whitefly)**

Intercepted in April 2005 at Gatwick airport in a consignment of Hibiscus plants from USA.

The UK requests listing in Annex IA1 of the Plant Health Directive. Meanwhile the UK will continue to take action against findings.

***Xanthomonas hortorum* pv. *carotae* (bacterial blight of carrots)**

Notified in 2005 of a finding in a Norfolk crop by a consultant.

The UK will not take statutory action, since there is little evidence of economic damage.