

Plant Health Division
Ground Floor, Foss House
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green
York YO1 7PX

Telephone +44(0)1904 641000
Website www.defra.gov.uk



Mr H Arijs
DG SANCO - E1, European Commission
Rue Belliard, B232, 3/114
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Date 8 August 2008

Dear Harry

PEST RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

You will be aware (see letter to Marc Vereecke of 2 April 2007) that the UK has a process for preparing and consulting on pest risk assessments for pests found recently in the UK. The pest risk assessments are made publicly available and comments invited (see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pratab.htm>).

Following consultation and internal discussion within the UK, the Commission will wish to be aware of the outcome of this process for the organisms indicated and, where relevant, consider requests for listing. Annex A provides a brief summary of our conclusions (full details are available through the web reference above). Section 1 includes those organisms where a request for listing is made. Section 2 refers to organisms where the conclusion is that statutory action should continue to be taken in the UK in some or all situations, but no specific request for listing is made. This is because, in the UK's opinion, there is insufficient information or justification to warrant listing at the present time, but we are presenting the information for the benefit of all member states and the Commission. Section 3 includes those organisms where no further statutory action will be taken in the UK.

We hope that it will be possible to feed these conclusions into the work of the Annexes Working Group. We would also appreciate an update on consideration of the requests referred to in our earlier letter of 2 April 2007 and indeed, more generally, as regards the issues considered by the Annexes Working Group. A number of these issues have of course been progressed with new legislation introduced or anticipated. These are welcome developments which the UK supports, but this leaves a number of issues outstanding on which the Annexes Working Group has already concluded its work. Additionally, there are other issues which remain to be considered by that Group. A summary of relevant issues is provided in Annex B. We would therefore welcome your thoughts on how these matters are to be progressed.

I would be grateful if this letter could be added to CIRCA for the information of member states.

Yours sincerely

Richard McIntosh
Plant Health Division

Direct Line +44(0)1904 455177 **GTN** 5137 5177

Fax +44(0)1904 455198

Email richard.mcintosh@defra.gsi.gov.uk

ANNEX A

UK PEST RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

1. UK requests for listing in the Plant Health Directive

a. *Iris yellow spot virus*

Iris Yellow Spot Virus (IYSV) is present in several European countries or has been recorded there at least once. The first ever UK outbreak (summer 2007) in lisianthus was declared eradicated in the autumn of 2007. Action taken to eradicate IYSV included control of the vector *Thrips tabaci* and destruction of symptomatic host plants.

Incidences in onions in Israel have been reported of up to 60% with resulting losses in bulb production. Disease incidence of over 90% has been recorded in one field of onions in Slovenia but there was no record of yield loss. In Spain, onion plants were severely infected and eventually died. In the Netherlands 50-60% of iris plants became infected. Without accurate information pertaining to yield losses, precise data on economic losses cannot be predicted. However, it is expected to be significant and infected onion plants and other edible *Allium* spp. are likely to yield significantly less than healthy plants; this has occurred in other non-European countries including the USA. IYSV poses a risk to both seed and bulb crops of edible *Allium* species including onion, leek, garlic, shallot and chive crops in the UK and the rest of the EU/EPPO region since the vector (*T. tabaci*) is established and widespread both in the field and in glasshouses. Wild *Allium* species and ornamental alliums are also potentially at risk as well as iris, lisianthus, chrysanthemum and amaryllis. IYSV may be introduced to new areas in crop and ornamental host plants and has the potential to be harboured in weeds present in field and glasshouse situations. Isolated outbreaks of IYSV in glasshouses may be eradicated by controlling the thrips population and then destroying affected host plants. Outbreaks in the field may be more difficult to eradicate. Host free periods (including weeds) should assist control. The distribution in Europe has increased since a 2002 PRA but it is still limited and as such it is proposed that IYSV be considered for listing as an Annex II/III quarantine pest with measures related to plants for planting of at least the main *Allium* hosts if not some of the ornamental hosts.

b. *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *poinsettiicola*

This pathogen was intercepted in the UK for the first time in 2006 and in all years subsequently. On all occasions it was found on the leaves of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (poinsettia) representing several different cultivars. Poinsettia production is economically significant in the UK and control options for *X. axonopodis* pv. *poinsettiicola* are limited to cultural measures and the destruction of infected plants. No chemical treatments are specifically approved for this bacterial pathogen. Therefore, we support quarantine status for the pathogen. The phytosanitary certificate and plant passporting requirements could be that plants are certified as originating in a country of origin or an area within it or place of production where the pathogen is known not to be present, or the plants are derived from pathogen-tested and pathogen-free stock in a certification scheme.

2. UK statutory action will continue to be taken in some or all situations

a. *Corythucha arcuata* (oak lace bug)

Corythucha arcuata is primarily a minor pest of oak trees, though it may survive on other genera such as *Rosa* and *Rubus*. The effect on the host plant is usually minor (unless the infestation is particularly heavy) but it does reduce the overall vigour of the plant, which can leave it prone to other pests or diseases. It is present in North America, mainly in the east and north, and has established itself in northern Italy, southern Switzerland and possibly Turkey. It seems to be slow to spread outwards from a particular location, but if it arrived undetected on imported plant material it would be able to survive and establish in the UK. *Corythucha arcuata* is not normally present in the UK and is capable of entering and establishing. Although unlikely to cause major economic damage, it would attack trees in native woodlands, parks and gardens and phytosanitary procedures will be undertaken if intercepted. The UK does not intend to seek listing for this pest.

b. *Epitrimerus taxodii* (swamp cypress rust mite)

In October 2006 *Epitrimerus taxodii* a North American species of eriophyid mite, host specific to *Taxodium distichum*, the swamp, bald, or southern cypress was found for the first time in Britain (Herefordshire). Approximately 20% of a stock of 400 *T. distichum* saplings imported from France in April 2006 were affected. Described from California, USA in 1939, *E. taxodii* has since been recorded as present in Illinois and Oregon, but is likely to be present throughout the natural range of its host in South-Eastern USA. This mite had never been intercepted or recorded in Europe before this find. The discovery of *E. taxodii* in Herefordshire is a first British record for this mite, and would also indicate that it is present in France, from where the saplings originated. No further UK assessment of this pest is planned in response to this isolated finding.

c. *Meloidogyne incognita* (a root-knot nematode)

Meloidogyne incognita was detected in the UK on ware potatoes from Israel on several occasions in 2004. Nematodes suspected to be *M. incognita*, were detected twice on imported Israeli ware potatoes in 2006. *Meloidogyne incognita* is a pest of a wide range of crops including sugar beet, potatoes, grapevine, hops, ornamentals and salad crops including tomatoes and cucumbers. *M. incognita* was regarded as a major pest of protected soil-grown tomatoes and cucumbers in the UK until the end of the 1970s, but its continued presence is uncertain. The risk to the large majority of protected salad crops in the UK is now mitigated by their hydroponic production systems using inert growing media such as rockwool. Although *M. incognita* could still be a serious pest in UK glasshouses, there is unlikely to be a pathway from imported potatoes (and any associated waste). Therefore, the risk of the pest becoming established in glasshouses as a result of it arriving in the soil associated with potatoes is low. The present and predicted

temperatures in the UK are not optimal for the development of pest populations of *M. incognita* outdoors. Given the lack of a pathway from potato waste to glasshouse crops and the low probability of *M. incognita* populations reaching pest levels outdoors in the UK, statutory phytosanitary action will no longer be taken when this nematode is detected on imported potatoes, but will continue to be undertaken if detected on plants for planting. No further pest risk analysis is planned.

d. *Neotoxoptera formosana*

Neotoxoptera formosana is an aphid pest of a number of commercial horticultural crops. It has a narrow host range and it represents a potential risk to the UK *Allium* industry. It can transmit viruses that cause plant damage and stunting although it is not a very efficient vector. There are no reports of serious damage in the literature although enormous populations can build up on *Allium* in storage. There is evidence that it is capable of being carried in trade internationally, although this is not common. It is able to survive in the UK climate. It can also survive in protected cultivation. Within Europe the organism can become a local pest as noted in Italy, and in Germany for the first time in 2007, although it is not reported as a pest in France despite it having been present since 1984. Since this organism is present in France, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands and is not causing a major problem there is little likelihood that it will become an EU listed quarantine pest, nevertheless eradication of isolated outbreaks detected in the UK will continue to be undertaken.

e. *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* (white peach scales)

Pseudaulacaspis pentagona (the white peach scale) was detected on *Catalpa bignonioides* trees sourced from Italy which arrived in the UK in approximately 2001 or 2002. The organism has also been found on *Prunus* from the Netherlands in 2001 or 2002. *P. pentagona* is a highly destructive polyphagous pest across much of the world. It occurs in several EU MS (France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden). Many hosts are grown in the UK, including several ornamental trees, shrubs and fruit such as *Pyrus*, *Ribes* and *Rubus*. *P. pentagona* is thought to originate from the Far East, China and Japan, where it is a particular pest of *Prunus* and *Morus*. *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* is likely to be able to establish outdoors in the UK with one generation per year. Within protected environments two or three generations may be possible each year. *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* is known to occur in glasshouses in Sweden. In areas where *P. pentagona* has been accidentally introduced in the absence of its natural enemies, major damage has been caused to hosts. *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* is a potentially damaging pest to a number of hosts of economic importance in the UK and statutory phytosanitary action will continue to be taken.

3. Organisms where no further statutory action will be taken in the UK

a. *Aceria tulipae* (dry bulb mite)

Aceria tulipae is not known to occur in the UK, but was found on onion (*Allium cepa*) sets from the Netherlands in February and March 2006. *Aceria tulipae* is a mite that is present in many countries around the world and widespread in Europe. *A. tulipae* is mainly regarded as a pest of bulbs in storage, especially in warmer countries where it is a significant pest of garlic bulbs in storage and one of several pests in stored onions. In the UK it is likely to be able to establish both outdoors and in storage facilities, although since impacts are mainly reported from warmer countries, significant damage is not expected in UK conditions. In the absence of further surveys/sampling to more confidently establish its status in the UK, and considering the likelihood of no significant damage, no statutory phytosanitary measures will be taken in the UK. However, a Plant Pest Notice is being used to raise awareness of the pest within industry.

b. *Aleurocerus palmae* (a whitefly on palms)

Aleurocerus palmae is a whitefly pest from Central and northern South America. Its main hosts seem to be palms, although it is also found on a number of genera, including bananas and orchids, in six other plant families. Its native climate is tropical and its known host plants are not native or naturalised in the UK, although they may be grown as pot plants, in gardens and as amenity plants in some areas. There have been four confirmed interceptions in the UK and two suspected, all on imported palm material. On host plants it is highly conspicuous and can cause unsightly damage and promote fungal growth. It has been intercepted in both the USA and Madeira, but is not thought to have established in either. In the UK it is unlikely to be able to establish outside or cause major economic damage under protection in the UK. No statutory phytosanitary measures will be undertaken in the UK.

c. *Alternaria panax*

Alternaria panax is not known in the UK and is therefore be considered an exotic pathogen. There have been two outbreaks in the UK on *Fatima japonica* and eradication action was undertaken under Article 16 (2) of 2000/29/EC. The pathogen has been reported to be present in two European countries (Spain and Italy). A significant level of disease was observed on *A. japonica* in Italy (Garibaldi *et al.* 2004). The pathogen has the ability to cause disease in European climates, at least to *A. japonica*. Hosts of *A. panax* are not important plants in the UK except in some cultivated situations, perhaps the most important host in the UK being *F. japonica*. As this pathogen occurs in other European countries, because its host-range is limited to relatively minor albeit valuable hosts and because it should be possible to control the disease using standard nursery practice and field controls for the small area of ginseng grown in the UK, no statutory phytosanitary measures will be taken for future findings of *A. panax* in the UK.

d. *Leucinodes orbonalis*

L. orbonalis is a major pest of *S. melongena* (aubergine) and is mainly found in Africa and Asia. There are records of it feeding on other solanaceous crops, such as tomato and potato, but it is not considered to be an economic pest on these species. It is intercepted infrequently in the UK and is always associated with imported produce. There is little chance of *L. orbonalis* surviving outdoors in the UK, but protected environments where suitable host plants are grown may be at risk. However, there is no obvious pathway between infested imported produce and suitable protected environments. If this pest were to become established in a protected environment, eradication would be achievable but could be difficult. The life history of *L. orbonalis*, suggests that EPPO member states with a warmer climate than the UK, e.g. Spain, Portugal & Israel, are more at risk. *L. orbonalis* represents little threat to the UK or northern EPPO region, although monitoring of suitable protected environments that are near points of entry of infested produce will be considered. No statutory phytosanitary action will be carried out in the UK, although Member states with more suitable climates will wish to be aware of the findings of this PRA.

e. *Phytomyza gymnostoma* (leaf mining fly)

In several countries of mainland Europe *Phytomyza gymnostoma* has become the major pest of *Allium* spp.. It can infest a high proportion (80-100%) of a susceptible crop. Plants can be completely destroyed or reduced in market value. UK garden-grown leeks have been so badly infested that they were completely inedible. There is a high likelihood that *P. gymnostoma* will continue to spread in the UK and will eventually reach commercial premises. Economic damage would be expected on *Allium* crops, particularly leek and onion crops from autumn sowings. Measures to prevent the spread of *P. gymnostoma* are likely to be difficult to implement and it is not proposed to carry out statutory phytosanitary measures in the UK.

f. *Plasmopara obducens* (Impatiens downy mildew)

The downy mildew disease of *Impatiens* found in the UK in 2003 for the first time was identified as being caused by *Plasmopara obducens*. In 2003, the pathogen caused a significant disease of ornamental *Impatiens*, a valuable crop in the UK and this caused major concern to the UK bedding plant industry. In 2004 and 2007 several more outbreaks occurred in the UK but these have not been investigated. The pathogen is already present elsewhere in some EU countries and may be much more widespread than reported. Four years after the first UK outbreaks which triggered this PRA, the industry are managing the disease themselves; thus, it is not considered appropriate to undertake statutory phytosanitary measures in the UK in the future.

g. Salix – commodity PRA

A commodity PRA was undertaken to consider the risk from pests and diseases from the trade in Salix planting material between Poland and the UK, given the absence of an assessment or requirements in relation to this trade. It has been recommended that imports of Salix from Poland should be checked for visually freedom of disease. Special consideration should be given by traders to ensuring freedom from *Cytospora translucens* and rust diseases caused by *Melampsora* spp.

h. *Stephanitis takeyai* (Andromeda lace bug)

Stephanitis takeyai is native to Japan and has spread to the USA. It has also spread to Europe and there have been many finds in the UK on ornamental propagating material from the EU. *S. takeyai* appears to have been present in at least one public garden in South East England for at least 10 years (since 1996) and has been found at approximately 30 plant centres across England since 1998. It has a limited number of host plants in the UK although hosts are ornamentals that are widely grown and may be of high value. Despite efforts to eradicate and contain this organism, measures taken have not proved a success. *Stephanitis takeyai* is now be considered as naturalised (established) in the UK.

i. *Verticillium longisporum* (a fungal pathogen)

The fungal pathogen *Verticillium longisporum* was confirmed in the UK for the first time in 2007 on oilseed rape. *V. longisporum* does not induce the wilt symptoms typical of *Verticillium dahliae* but may stunt growth and cause premature flowering and maturity. It appears that this pathogen is already established in the UK on this crop because it has been confirmed at two sites and there is evidence that it may be present at other sites around the country. It is known to have been present in other Northern European countries on oilseed rape for many years and given that oilseed rape seed can be traded freely within the EU it would not be practicable to attempt to control all the entry pathways for this pathogen. This is because the microsclerotia are very small (like dust) and could be carried as contamination on oilseed rape seed or in soil attached to planting material of other species. For these reasons, no statutory phytosanitary action will be taken against this pathogen.

Annex B: Recommendations of AWG to November 2004 SCPH

Results as at June 2008

Harmful organism	Recommendation report number	Proposal for regulation ¹					Regulation 2008 ²
		Annex I / II?	IVAI?	IVAII?	VAI?	VAII?	
Mycoplasma	no. 1	Correct to phytoplasma					None – waiting on taxonomic revision
<i>Aonidiella citrina</i> (Coquillet)	no. 2	IIAI + footnote		-	-	-	Unresolved. Newer recommendation in draft
<i>Aphelenchoides besseyi</i> Christie	no. 3	IIAI delete footnote, alter IIAI		IVAI	VAI		Unresolved, remain as is & rec. RNQP? Newer recommendation in draft
Apple proliferation mycoplasma	no. 4	Correct name	IVAI	IVAI		-	Unresolved recs to amend IVAI
<i>Cacopsylla fulguralis</i>	no. 5	No regulation recommended					Do not regulate
<i>Chrysanthemum Stem Necrosis Virus</i> (CSNV)	no. 6	IAI	IVAI		-	-	IIAI IVAI
<i>Ciborinia camelliae</i> Kohn	no. 7	IIAI		IVAI	VAI		Unresolved Newer recommendation in draft
<i>Dendrolimus sibiricus</i> Tschetveriko	no. 8	IAI		-	-	-	IAI
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i> Le Conte	no. 9	See below					

¹ An entry in these columns indicates some alteration is proposed – the details are in the individual pest recommendation reports.

² Where regulation is proposed, but there is no number the proposal has been informally voted at SCPH in January 2008, but the outcome of WTO-SPS notifications has not been finalised.

<i>D. v. virgifera</i>	no. 9	IIAI		-	-	-	IIAI Emergency 2003/766/EC & amendments	
<i>D. v. zeae</i>	no. 9	IAI		-	-	-	IAI	
<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i> Yasumatsu	no. 10	IIAI	IVAI	IVAI		-	Emergency 2006/464/EC	
<i>Fusarium foetens</i>	no. 11	IIAI	IVAI	IVAI		VAI	Unresolved. Newer recommendation in draft	
<i>Impatiens necrotic spot virus</i>	no. 12	Statement – as TSWV (2 October 2000)						Unresolved. Newer recommendation in draft
<i>Leveillula taurica</i>	no. 13	No regulation recommended						Do not regulate
<i>Monilinia fructicola</i> (Winter) Honey	no. 14	IIAI	IVAI	IVAI		-	Unresolved. Newer recommendation in draft	
<i>Parasaissetia nigra</i> (Nietm.)	no. 15	Correct name IIAI + footnote		-	-	- VB	IIAI	
<i>Paysandisia archon</i>	no. 16	IIAI	IVAI	IVAI	VAI		IIAI IVAI IVAI VAI	
<i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i>	no. 17	IIAI	IVAI	IVAI	VAI		Emergency 2007/365/EC	
<i>Rhynchophorus palmarum</i>	no. 18	IIAI	IVAI		-	-	IAI	
<i>Scrobipalopsis (Tecia) solanivora</i> Povolný	no. 19	IIAI	IVAI		-	-	IIAI IVAI	
<i>Stegophora ulmea</i>	no. 20	IIAI		-	-	-	IIAI	
Thrips australis	no. 21	No regulation recommended						Do not regulate
<i>Xanthomonas axonopodis</i> pv. <i>Dieffenbachiae</i>	no. 22	IIAI		IVAI	IVAI	VAI	Unresolved. Newer recommendation in draft	

Other substantive alterations with some current regulation.							
<i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire	no. 23						IIAI IVAI VBI
<i>Gibberella circinata</i> Nirenberg & O'Donnell	no. 50						Emergency 2007/433/EC
<i>Pepino mosaic virus</i>	no. 241						Emergency 2003/64/EC & amendments
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> [& <i>P. kernoviae</i>]	no. 252 [no. 253]						Emergency 2002/757/EC & amendments
<i>Potato spindle tuber viroid</i>	no. 243						Emergency 2007/410/EC
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	no. 254						Transfer from IAII to IIAII ³
<i>Colletotrichum acutatum</i>	no. 40						Deletion from IIAI ⁴

³ In directive 2008/64

⁴ In directive 2008/64