

# *Xylella fastidiosa*

HOST: ASH  
(*Fraxinus* 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

## *Fraxinus* spp.

- ◆ Deciduous, medium-sized to large (up to 35m) trees
- ◆ Leaves opposite, compound, pinnate, usually 3–6 pairs of oval leaflets with a pointed tip and 1 terminal leaflet
- ◆ Black, oppositely arranged, velvet-like buds
- ◆ Purple flowers emerge in spiked clusters before the leaves in the springtime
- ◆ Distinctive winged fruits (keys) form from pollinated flowers and hang in clusters



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 initially at leaf tips and margins **1**
- ◆ Scorched leaves can curl upwards or downwards from the tip **2**
- ◆ Scorched leaves can roll inwards or outwards from the leaf margins **3**
- ◆ Discoloration and death of foliage in the crown **4**
- ◆ Defoliation and dieback of twigs and branches in the crown **5**



2



1



3



5



4

## 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
- ◆ Chalara ash dieback

## 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)

