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2026/055 New data on quarantine pests and pests of the EPPO Alert List

By searching through the literature, the EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following new data concerning quarantine pests and pests included (or formerly included) on the EPPO Alert List, and indicated in bold the situation of the pest concerned using the terms of ISPM 8.

- **New records**

In New Zealand, two specimens of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) were caught in traps early 2025 in two locations near Auckland (Birkdale and Papatoetoe). Official measures were taken, and in spring 2025 the pest was declared absent. During surveillance activities in February 2026, four *B. dorsalis* were found in traps in Papatoetoe (Biosecurity New Zealand, 2025, 2026). Phytosanitary measures have been implemented with the aim of eradication. **Present, transient.**

Frankliniella occidentalis (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Indonesia. It was identified on chrysanthemum in greenhouses in West Java Province (Hutapea *et al*. 2025). **Present, not widely distributed**.

Gonipterus platensis (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), one of the species of the *Gonipterus scutellatus* species complex (EPPO A2 List), is first recorded from India. It is reported as established in the high elevation Nilgiri Plateau in the state of Tamil Nadu since 2019. It was observed in *Eucalyptus globulus* plantations (Yeshwanth *et al*., 2025). This is a first record for Asia. **Present, not widely distributed.**

Gonipterus platensis (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), one of the species of the *Gonipterus scutellatus* species complex (EPPO A2 List), is first recorded from Paraguay. It was detected in Caazapá Department (southern part of the country) in eucalyptus plantations (*Eucalyptus urophylla* × *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* clones) in January 2023 (Benítez Díaz *et al.*, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed.**

Gymnandrosoma aurantianum (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae - EPPO Alert List) is first recorded from the USA. It was detected in Texas in June 2025 but there is no evidence of an established population (PPQ, 2025). **Present, transient.**

Neopestalotiopsis rosae is reported for the first time in South Africa, associated with leaf and twig blight of blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum)* in South African nurseries (Van der Vyver *et al*., 2025). **Present.**

Phytomyza gymnostoma (Diptera: Agromyzidae - formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported from Canada. The pest was detected in association with leeks (*Allium* spp.) at a single residential site in the Niagara region of Ontario in November 2025 (IPPC, 2026).
The pest status of *Phytomyza gymnostoma* in Canada is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

Tetranychus evansi (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Côte d'Ivoire. It infests crops of *Solanum lycopersicum, Solanum melongena* and *Solanum aethiopicum* across the country but it is more abundant in the northern part of the country (Deletre *et al*., 2026). **Present**.

The yellow-legged hornet *Vespa velutina* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae – EU IAS of concern) is first recorded from Algeria. One adult was observed in a garden near Algiers in September 2025. It is not known if it is established. This is the first record for Africa (Semmar, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed**.

In the United Kingdom, the yellow-legged hornet *Vespa velutina* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae – EU IAS of concern) was first reported in September 2016 in south-western England (EPPO RS 2016/208) and has since been reported across England and official measures are applied. In January 2026, a dead nest of *V. velutina* was found near Wrexham (Clwyd, Wales). This is the first time *V. velutina* has been reported in Wales and official measures are being implemented according to the Asian Hornet Contingency Plan (Welsh Government, 2026). **Present, transient and under official control.**

In Guatemala, 17 bark and ambrosia beetles (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) were first reported during a survey in an avocado (*Persea americana*) plantation and a natural forest. New species recorded include *Xylosandrus compactus* (formerly EPPO Alert List) and *Xylosandrus morigerus* (Ochaeta, 2026). **Present.**

Watermelon chlorotic stunt virus (*Begomovirus citrulli,* WmCSV - formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported in India. In May 2024, WmCSV was identified on muskmelon (*Cucumis melo*) in Punjab (Mahanta *et al.*, 2025). **Present.**

- **Detailed records**

In India, during a field survey to identify thrips species present on vegetable and pulse crops, *Ceratothripoides claratris* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, EPPO A1 List) and *Microcephalothrips abdominalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, formerly EPPO Alert List) were reported for the first time in Chhattisgarh state. *C. claratris* was reported for the first time on *Vigna mungo* (Akanand *et al.,* 2026)

In Indonesia, *Diaphorina citri* (vector of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' - Hemiptera: Psyllidae - EPPO A1 List) occurs in Kalimantan (Setyaningrum *et al.*, 2026).

In Kenya *Globodera rostochiensis* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported in 2015 (EPPO RS 2015/129) on potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) in Nyandarua county. It is now also reported in Nyeri county (Kiige *et al.*, 2026).

In the USA leaf mines caused by *Nemorimyza maculosa* (Diptera: Agromyzidae – EPPO A1 List) have been observed in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia (Eiseman *et al.*, 2026).

In Canada, *Phyllachora maydis* (EPPO Alert List) causing tar spot on maize (*Zea mays*) was first found in Ontario in 2020 (EPPO RS 2022/028). In 2024 it was first reported from Quebec (Cayer *et al.*, 2025).

In the USA, *Phyllachora maydis* (EPPO Alert List) causing tar spot on maize (*Zea mays*) is now reported from 20 states. It was recently recorded for the first time in North Dakota and Virginia (Waibel *et al.,* 2025).

In India, *Selenothrips rubrocinctus* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae - EPPO Alert List) is reported from Manipur, on red oak (*Quercus serrata*) (Nishikanta Singh *et al.*, 2026).

In Italy, *Zaprionus tuberculatus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported from Campania and Lazio (Nugnes *et al.*, 2026).

- **New host plants**

Melon (*Cucumis melo*) is first reported as a host of cowpea mild mottle virus (*Carlavirus vignae*, CPMMV - EU Quarantine pest 2019/2072 Annex II A). *C. melo* plants showing yellowing, mosaic and mottling symptoms in commercial fields in Mato Grosso State (Brazil) were confirmed to be infected by CPMMV in September 2022. *Cucumis sativus*, which had been previously recorded as an experimental host, was shown to be a natural host of CPMMV (Silva *et al.*, 2026).

Cherry leaf roll virus (*Nepovirus avii*, CLRV - EU RNQP) was detected on an *Ailanthus altissima* (Simaroubaceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) tree showing chlorotic ringspots and leaf distortion in Thessaloniki, Greece (Olmedo-Velarde *et al.*, 2026).

Sources: Akanand D, Rana DK, Sivalingam PN, Dixit A, Tyagi K, Sridhar J (2026) Report of six new thrips species on vegetable and pulse crops in central India. *Current Science* **130**(2), 148.

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Additional key words: new record, detailed record, new host plants

Computer codes: AILAL, AMAZMA, CERPCE, CLRV00, CPMMV0, CRTZCL, CSPDMI, DACUDO, DIAACI, ECDYAU, FRANIT, FRANOC, GONPPL, GONPSC, HELTHA, HETDRO, MCCTAB, NAPOGY, NPESRS, PHYRMA, SLENRU, TETREV, VESPVE, WMCSV0, XYLSCO, XYLSMO, ZAPRTU, CA, CI, DZ, GB, GT, ID, IN, IT, KE, NZ, PY, US, ZA

2026/056 EU database on Interceptions of harmful organisms in imported plants and other objects

The European Commission has recently released an interactive QlikSense dashboard. This tool helps retrieve non-compliance data of consignments of plants, plant products and other objects presented for import into the EU from the TRACES database. It enables visualization of data by origin, pest, and commodity type.
The dashboard provides data from 2022 onwards, which is updated twice monthly on the 6th and 21st of each month.

It can be accessed at https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions_en

Source: EU Commission (2026-02).

Additional key words: interception, database

Computer codes: EU

2026/057 First report of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Spain

The NPPO of Spain recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of the fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae – EPPO A2 List), on its territory. In November 2025, 3 male adult *S. frugiperda* were caught in a trap in a field of maize (*Zea mays*) in Antequera (Málaga province, Andalucía). The identity of the pest was confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory. No symptoms were observed on host plants in the area surrounding the trap. Official phytosanitary measures are being applied according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1134 to eradicate the pest. They include insecticide treatments in the demarcated area, establishing a trapping network around the field where the individuals were caught, and inspections of facilities importing host plants in the vicinity. The NPPO note that the climatic conditions following this finding were not favourable for the establishment of *S. frugiperda*.

The pest status of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Spain is officially declared as: **Transient, the pest has been detected exclusively in one trap, actionable, under surveillance.**

Source: NPPO of Spain (2026-02).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1134 of 8 June 2023 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Smith) and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/638. OJ L 149. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/1134/oj

Pictures: *Spodoptera frugiperda*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LAPHFR/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** LAPHFR, ES

2026/058 Incursion of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Spain

The NPPO of Spain recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) on its territory. In October 2025, three adults of *B. dorsalis* were caught in a trap located in an orchard in El Astillero municipality (Cantabria). The identity of the species was confirmed as *Bactrocera dorsalis* by the Regional Laboratory. Official phytosanitary measures have been implemented including intensive surveillance and safe disposal of any fallen fruit from host plants within a 500 m radius of the original trap. According to an assessment on *B. dorsalis* by EFSA (2025), the NPPO of Spain does not believe that *B. dorsalis* can establish in Cantabria. The source of the outbreak is not known but the NPPO notes that several entry points are located in the vicinity (a wholesale market, the port and airport of Santander).

The pest status of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Spain is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Spain (2025-12).

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Tramontini S, Gilioli G, de la Peña E, Rzepecka D, Scala M, Sánchez B, Nougadère A, Vos S, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), Turillazzi F (2025) *Bactrocera dorsalis* - Pest Report to support the ranking of EU candidate priority pests. *EFSA supporting publication* 2025:EN-9326. 54 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/sp.efsa.2025.EN-9326

Pictures: *Bactrocera dorsalis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUDO/photos

Additional key words: incursion **Computer codes:** DACUDO, ES

2026/059 Update on the situation of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Greece

In Greece, *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) was first reported in June 2024 (EPPO RS 2024/148) and later eradicated (RS 2024/187).
In 2025, a monitoring network for the pest was established in the Attica Region, consisting of 103 Delta-type traps with the attractant methyl eugenol. In July 2025, 16 adult males were simultaneously captured in 6 different traps located in the Central district of Athens at a distance of 500 m to approximately 2 km from each other. As a consequence, 100 additional yellow sticky traps with methyl eugenol were installed in the district. Up to December 2025, 35 *B. dorsalis* were caught in various traps in the Central district of Athens and in one location in the Western district of Athens, over an area of 8-9 km^2. In total, in 2025, 41 adult males of the insect were captured in 23 traps.

A regulated area has been demarcated, and official measures are applied according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311.

The situation of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Greece can be described as follows: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: Ministry of rural development and food (2026-02).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311 of 14 February 2025 on measures to eradicate and to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of fruit flies of the species *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), *Bactrocera latifrons* (Hendel) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders). *OJ L, 2025/311,* *http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/311/oj*

Pictures: *Bactrocera dorsalis* . https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUDO

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** DACUDO, GR

2026/060 First report of *Bactrocera zonata* in Greece

Bactrocera zonata (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Greece. The pest is monitored through the same network of traps used for the surveillance of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (EPPO RS 2026/059) in the Attica Region. The first capture was recorded in June 2025 in a trap of the Northern district of Athens and other specimens were caught in traps in the Central and Western districts of Athens between June and December 2025 covering an area of around 50 km^2. In total, in 2025, 43 adult males were caught in 35 traps. The largest number of traps where the pest was caught were located in the Central district of Athens.

A regulated area has been demarcated, and official measures are applied according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311.

The situation of *Bactrocera zonata* in Greece can be described as follows: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: Ministry of rural development and food (2026-02).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311 of 14 February 2025 on measures to eradicate and to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of fruit flies of the species *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), *Bactrocera*

latifrons (Hendel) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders). *OJ L, 2025/311,* *http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/311/oj*

Pictures: *Bactrocera zonata*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUZO/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** DACUZO, GR

2026/061 First report of *Dacus frontalis* in France

Dacus frontalis (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU Quarantine Pest as *Dacus* spp.) is an important pest of cucurbit fruits in Africa and the Middle East. It was reported in Tunisia in 2014 (EPPO RS 2015/137) and more recently in Algeria, Morrocco (RS 2024/032) and Islas Canarias (RS 2025/060) and has been intercepted in Belgium (RS 2025/061).

The NPPO of France recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *D. frontalis* on its territory. As part of official surveys 23 larvae of *Dacus* sp. were found in September 2025 from two small fields of *Cucurbita pepo* in an urban area in Alpes-Maritimes department (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region). In October 2025 three adults of *D. frontalis* were caught in a trap and the identity of the species was confirmed as *Dacus frontalis* by the National Reference Laboratory. Official phytosanitary measures have been applied to eradicate the pest in a demarcated area consisting of four adjacent plots of courgettes (*C. pepo*). Measures include enhanced surveillance, a ban on planting *C. pepo* and incineration of infested fruits. Local awareness raising is being conducted among producers.

The pest status of *Dacus frontalis* in France is officially declared as: **Transient, detection in two plots of *Cucurbita pepo* (courgettes), actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of France (2025-12).

Pictures: *Dacus frontalis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUFR/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** DACUFR, FR

2026/062 First report of *Thrips parvispinus* in Sicilia (Italy)

Thrips parvispinus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported in Italy. During a survey to detect the presence of thrips in south-eastern Sicilia, *T. parvispinus* was reported on gerbera flowers (*Gerbera jamesonii*) in a greenhouse in Vittoria municipality (Ragusa province) in October 2025. In November 2025, Massimino *et al.* (2026) received symptomatic leaf samples of gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*) and mimosa (*Acacia* sp.) plants from Milazzo (Messina province) and pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) plants from Licata (Agrigento province) with confirmed *T. parvispinus*. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular analysis.

Considering the damage cause by the pest in Spain, the authors consider that the presence of *T. parvispinus* in Sicilia could be a major threat for the vegetable production (particularly *Capsicum* spp.) in the area.

The situation of *Thrips parvispinus* in Sicilia (Italy) can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed.**

Source: Massimino Cocuzza G, Hmad EB, Novara R (2026) First report in Italy of *Thrips parvispinus* (Karny, 1922)(Thysanoptera, Thripidae), a major threat for Sicilian horticulture and floriculture. *EPPO Bulletin* (early view). https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.70053

Pictures: *Thrips parvispinus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THRIPV/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** THRIPV, IT

2026/063 First reports of *Thrips parvispinus* as a virus vector

Thrips parvispinus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is reported as a vector of groundnut bud necrosis virus (GBNV, *Orthotospovirus arachinecrosis*) in tomato crops (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in Tamil Nadu (India)

T. parvispinus is also considered the vector of yellow spot disease caused by melon yellow spot virus *(Orthotospovirus meloflavi)* on melon (*Cucumis melo*) observed in outbreaks in Indonesia.

Source: Sharanya R, Gayathri M, Renukadevi P, Saranya N, Suganthy M, Varanavasiappan S, Nakkeeran S (2025) First record of the transmission of groundnut bud necrosis virus (GBNV) in tomato by Southeast Asian thrips, Thrips parvispinus. *3 Biotech* **15**(12), 426.

Hartono S, Kandito A, Priyatmojo A (2025) First report and yield reduction of emerging yellow spot disease on melon (Cucumis melo) caused by melon yellow spot virus (MYSV) in Indonesia. *Pertanika J. Trop. Agric. Sci.* **48**(5), 1399-1406.

Pictures: *Thrips parvispinus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THRIPV/photos

Additional key words: aetiology **Computer codes:** THRIPV, IN, ID;

2026/064 Incursions of non-European Scolytinae in Slovenia

The NPPO of Slovenia recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first findings of four non-European Scolytinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) on its territory. 'Non-European Scolytinae' are EU Quarantine pests.

The beetles were caught in traps as part of a scientific project carried out by the Forestry Institute of Slovenia. In December 2025, 2 adults of *Cyrtogenius luteus* and 3 adults of *Cyclorhipidion bodoanum* were reported in one trap near the border with Italy in Goriška region (West Slovenia). In February 2026, a total of 3 adult *Cyclorhipidion distinguendum* were caught in three traps and 2 adult *Dryoxylon onoharaense* were caught across two traps in Goriška region. The identity of the pests was confirmed by morphological and molecular testing. In 2026 the Multiannual Survey Programme conducted by the NPPO will include surveys for non-European Scolytinae.

Cyrtogenius luteus is native to South-East Asia and has established in Italy and parts of South America (Stazione *et al.*, 2026).
Cyclorhipidion bodoanum was introduced to Europe in the 1960s and is established in many countries in Western Europe (Kirkendall and Faccoli, 2010).

Cyclorhipidion distinguendum is native to South-East Asia, and has been recorded in France, Switzerland (EPPO RS 2023/045) and the USA (Atkinson, 2026).
Dryoxylon onoharaense is native to East-Asia and has been recorded in the USA and Italy (RS 2023/045).

The status of *Cyrtogenius luteus* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

The status of *Cyclorhipidion bodoanum* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

The status of *Cyclorhipidion distinguendum* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

The status of *Dryoxylon onoharaense* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

Source: Atkinson TH (2026) Bark and Ambrosia Beetles of the Americas. *Cyclorhipidion distinguendum*. Accessed at: https://www.barkbeetles.info/amer_chklist_target_species.php?lookUp=7552

Kirkendall LR, Faccoli M (2010) Bark beetles and pinhole borers (Curculionidae, Scolytinae, Platypodinae) alien to Europe. *ZooKeys* **17**(56), 227. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.56.529

NPPO of Slovenia (2026-01, 2026-02).

Stazione L, Soliani C, Cognato A, Gomez DF, Avtzis D, Eskiviski E, Martinez Crosa G, Lin W, Li Y, Corley J, Lantschner V (2026) Reconstructing the invasion history of the bark beetles *Orthotomicus erosus* and *Cyrtogenius luteus* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Scolytinae) in South America. *Biological Invasions* **28**(2), 49. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-026-03779-6

Additional key words: new record, incursion **Computer codes:** CYRGLU, XYLBCA, DRYXON, CYCRFU, SI

2026/065 Update on the situation of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* and *S. aurantii* in Portugal

In Portugal *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A2 List) was first detected in 2024 in Algarve (EPPO RS 2024/237) and *Scirtothrips aurantii* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A1 List) was first reported in the mainland in 2022 in Algarve and Alentejo regions as well as in Madeira in 2024 (EPPO RS 2023/036, RS 2024/010, RS 2024/099). Official measures are applied.

During the official survey program conducted in 2025 in Algarve, the host plant species found infested by *S. aurantii* were as follows: *Citrus* x *limon, Citrus reticulata, Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis, Citrus* sp., *Citrus* x *aurantiifolia, Citrus* x *nobilis, Diospyros kaki, Ficus carica, Malus domestica, Myoporum* sp., *Myrtus communis, Persea americana, Prunus persica, Punica granatum, Rosa* sp., *Rubus idaeus, Rubus* sp., *Vitis vinifera*. Additionally, several host species were recorded as infested for the first time: *Arbutus unedo, Cydonia oblonga, Fragaria* sp., *Lycianthes rantonnetii, Ricinus communis* and *Rubus ulmifolius*.

During the same program *S. dorsalis* was detected on *Myoporum* sp. and *Citrus* x *limon,* and for the first time on the weed *Ricinus communis* along a roadside in Algarve.

As of March 2026, there are 106 demarcated areas established for *S. aurantii*, five for *S. dorsalis*, and two where both species are present (all in Algarve region). New demarcated areas have been established in Monchique and in Faro, and official phytosanitary measures are being implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The pest status of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in Portugal is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication, only in some parts of the Member State concerned.**

The pest status of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in Portugal is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication, only in some parts of the Member State concerned.**

Source: NPPO of Portugal (2026-02, 2026-03).

Pictures: *Scirtothrips dorsalis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCITDO/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** SCITDO, SCITAU, PT

2026/066 Eradication of the outbreak of *Pomacea* sp. in France

In France an outbreak of apple snails, *Pomacea* sp. (Ampullariidae- EU Quarantine Pest) was found in July 2018 in the municipality of Fréjus (Var department) (EPPO RS 2018/161). Eradication measures were applied and surveillance conducted in the infested area.
In 2021, 2 adults and 5 eggs were detected. Since then, no specimens of any life stages were detected.

The pest status of *Pomacea* sp. in France is officially declared as: **Absent, pest eradicated.**

Source: NPPO of France (2026-03).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2013 of 23 July 2024 on measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory and to eradicate *Pomacea* (Perry) and repealing Implementing Decision 2012/697/EU *JO L, 2024/2013, 26.7.2024*. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2013/oj

Additional key words: eradication, absence **Computer codes:** 1POMAG, POMASP, FR

2026/067 New finding of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in France

The pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported in France in November 2025 in the municipality of Seignosse (Landes department, Nouvelle-Aquitaine region) (EPPO RS 2025/263). Official measures are being applied.

As a result of official surveillance in the 3 km-radius area around the initial finding, another symptomatic *Pinus* tree was identified in the municipality of Angresse, in a private park 2.3 km south of the initial outbreak. In March 2026, the identity of the pest was confirmed. The infested tree was immediately felled and shredded. Surveillance will be intensified in the area. The demarcated area will be modified accordingly.

The pest status of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in France is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of France (2026-03).

Prefet de Gironde (2026-03-18) Press release : Nématode du pin : une nouvelle détection autour du foyer de Seignosse https://www.gironde.gouv.fr/Actualites/Communiques-de-presse/Communiques-de-presse-2026/Mars-2026/Nematode-du-pin-Une-nouvelle-detection-autour-du-foyer-de-Seignosse

Pictures: *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BURSXY/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** BURSXY, FR

2026/068 Update on the situation of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in Italy

In Italy, the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne enterolobii* (EPPO A2 List) was first detected in March 2023 in imported *Ficus microcarpa* plants in Toscana region and subsequently eradicated (EPPO RS 2023/085, RS 2023/139). It was then found in a nursery in Fiumefreddo di Sicilia (Province of Catania - Sicilia) (RS 2024/199). Since then, a number of outbreaks have been reported in several regions. In all cases, official measures are applied to eradicate the pest.

- Sicilia

In February 2025 the pest was detected in a nursery in Mascali (Province of Catania) in *Ficus microcarpa* plants (bonsai) recently imported from China. The infested plants were destroyed. However, in July 2025 the pest was detected again in a nursery bordering the two sites where the pest had been previously found and eradicated.

In April 2025, the pest was detected in *Callistemon* sp. exported to the Netherlands by a nursery in Giarre (Province of Catania). The presence of the pest was confirmed in the nursery, and the entire lot of plants was destroyed.

- Marche

M. enterolobii was found a garden centre in Pesaro (Province of Pesaro e Urbino) following a traceback survey after an interception in the Netherlands on *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* (RS 2025/264). Five out of the six *C. lutescens* from the infested lot had already been sold to final consumers and could not be retrieved. In October 2025, the remaining plant was found to be infested by *M. enterolobii* and destroyed.

Toscana

M. enterolobii was found in a nursery in Pescia (Province of Pistoia) following a traceback survey after an interception on *Melaleuca citrina (*syn. *Callistemon citrinus*) and *Callistemon* 'masotti' plants in the United Kingdom. The plants originated in Sicilia.

The pest status of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, in specific parts of the Member State, under eradication**.

Source: NPPO of Italy (2025-12).

Pictures: *Meloidogyne enterolobii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELGMY/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** MELGMY, IT

2026/069 Update on the situation of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in the Netherlands

The NPPO of the Netherlands recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the situation of the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne enterolobii* (EPPO A2 List) on its territory.

M. enterolobii was first reported in the Netherlands in January 2023 on ornamental potted plants of *Ficus microcarpa* from a retail company (EPPO RS 2023/046) and eradicated (RS 2024/245). The nematode was detected again in 2025 on asymptomatic potted plants of *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens (*syn. *Dypsis lutescens)* originating from El Salvador (RS 2025/264) in several locations. The NPPO confirmed that these outbreaks have been eradicated.

The pest was found again twice in 2025 on ornamental potted plants of *Ficus microcarpa* originating from China. Root knots were observed on the roots of the plants. The two outbreaks were eradicated.

A recent finding occurred in 2026 on ornamental potted plants of *Syzygium buxifolium* originating from China. Root knots were observed on the roots of the plants. Eradication measures are applied and include destruction of all infested lots. Plants sharing the same water distribution system are subject to a 10-week incubation period before being inspected again.

The pest status of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Transient, under eradication on ornamental plants indoors**.

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-02).

Pictures: *Meloidogyne enterolobii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELGMY/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** MELGMY, NL

2026/070 New reports of *Diplodia bulgarica*, an emerging pest of apple

Diplodia bulgarica is a fungal pathogen that was first described in 2012, affecting crap apple (*Malus sylvestris*) in Bulgaria and causing cankers and dieback on apple (*M. domestica*). Since 2017, further reports of *D. bulgarica* have been made from Asia, Europe and the United States of America:

- Serbia: During apple harvests from 2016 to 2018, *D. bulgarica* was identified as a one of seven fungal pathogens that caused pre- and post-harvest apple fruit decay in orchards and stores across Serbia (Vučković *et al.*, 2022).
- India: During the 2017-2018 growing season, black canker symptoms were observed on apple trees from commercial orchards in several apple-growing regions (Nabi *et al.*, 2020).
- Germany: in 2018, *D. bulgarica* was identified to cause black cankers, and in extreme cases death, of apple and pear (*Pyrus communis)* trees in an organic orchard in Baden-Württemberg (Hinrichs-Berger *et al.*, 2021). A survey in 2023 showed that the pathogen was present in nearly all German states (Zugschwerdt *et al.*, 2023).
- Türkiye: in 2019, *D. bulgarica* was identified as the cause of canker symptoms on apple trees in Isparta province (Eken, 2021).
- USA (California): in winter 2023, *D. bulgarica* was identified as the cause of black canker symptoms on apple trees in two commercial orchards in Sonoma County, California. Symptomatic trees ranged from 10-30% of trees in each area (Elfar *et al.*, 2024).
- China (Xinjiang): in May 2024, black rot cankers were observed on *M. domestica* and *M. sieversii* trees in Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture. About 30-40% of trees in each area were symptomatic (Xie *et al.*, 2025).
- Poland: in summer 2024, *D. bulgarica* was identified as the causal agent of black cankers on branches and trunks of 24- and 60-year-old apple trees in a historical garden in Nieborów, Łowicz County, Łódź Voivodeship. Over 40% of *Malus* trees in the area were symptomatic (Głos and Michalecka, 2026).

Source:

Eken C (2021) *Diplodia bulgarica*, a new record for Turkey. *Mycotaxon* **136**, 669–673.

Elfar K, Carachure C, Bustamante MI, Andrews E, Eskalen A (2024) First report of *Diplodia bulgarica* causing black canker on apple in California. *Plant Disease* **108**(2), 531 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-10-23-2031-PDN

Głos H, Michalecka M (2026) First detection of *Diplodia bulgarica*, a new pathogen causing black canker of apple trees in Poland. *Scientific Reports* **16**, 7433 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-38714-1

Hinrichs-Berger J, Zegermacher K, Zgraja G (2021) First report of *Diplodia bulgarica* causing black canker on apple (*Malus domestica*) and pear (*Pyrus communis*) in Germany. *New Disease Reports* **43**(1), e12004 https://doi.org/10.1002/ndr2.12004

Nabi SU, Raja WH, Mir JI, Sharma OC, Singh DB, Sheikh MA, Yousuf N, Kamil D (2020) First report of *Diplodia bulgarica* a new species causing canker disease of apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh) in India. *Journal of Plant Pathology* **102**(2), 555-556 https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-019-00445-w

Vučković N, Vico I, Duduk B, Duduk N (2022) Diversity of Botryosphaeriaceae and *Diaporthe* species associated with postharvest apple fruit decay in Serbia. *Phytopathology* **112**(4), 929-943 https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-07-21-0304-R

Xie S, Wu H, Wang Y, Chen C, Gong F, Guo Y, Li H, Zhang M (2025) First report of *Diplodia bulgarica* causing black rot canker on apple in China. *Plant Disease* **109**(9), 1987 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-25-0830-PDN

Zugschwerdt J, Zegermacher K, Zgraja G, Schrader G, Clovis Douanla-Meli C, Hinrichs-Berger J (2023) Diversity and distribution of *Diplodia* spp. – causative agent of black canker on pome fruit trees in Germany. Journal für Kulturpflanzen, 75 (07-08), 196–201. https://doi.org/10.5073/JfK.2023.07-08.03

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: DIPBBU, RS, TR, DE, CN, BG, IN, PL, US

2026/071 *Diplodia bulgarica*, an emerging pest of apple: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why: *Diplodia bulgarica* is a pathogen causing canker on apple trees (*Malus domestica*) and is reported to cause significant damage in orchards. It has recently been reported in new countries in Europe and Asia for the first time. Considering the recent emergence of *D. bulgarica* in several EPPO countries, the EPPO Secretariat thought that it could be usefully added to the EPPO Alert List.

Where: *Diplodia bulgarica* was first described from Bulgaria in 2012. However, recent molecular tests of samples collected in 2009 in Iran identified *D. bulgarica,* which suggests that *D. bulgarica* may be more widespread than is currently reported. Since 2019, it has been reported in China, Poland, Türkiye and the USA.
EPPO region: Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Türkiye.
Asia: China (Xinjiang), India (Jammu and Kashmir), Iran.
North America: United States of America (California).

On which plants: *D. bulgarica* has a limited host range within the Rosaceae family. The main host is apple (*Malus domestica*), but it has also been reported on crab apple (*M. sylvestris*), wild apple (*M. sieversii*) and pear (*Pyrus communis*).

Damage: damage includes cankers, twig blight, gummosis, pre- and post-harvest fruit rot, dieback, tree decline and death. Under environmental stresses, such as drought and cold, symptom severity is greater.

Dissemination: *D. bulgarica* overwinters in tree cankers and conidia are released in the spring. The dissemination of *D. bulgarica* has not been extensively studied, but it is expected that it is similar to other *Diplodia* species, where the conidia can spread over short distances through water splash and wind dispersal. In international trade, the fungus may be carried by host plants for planting or on fruit or wood from infected plants.

Pathways: plants for planting, fresh fruit, wood of host plants from countries where it occurs, soil from countries where it occurs, seeds?

Possible risks: Apple and pear trees are economically important crops in the EPPO region. *D. bulgarica* is known to be a significant pest in Iran and Jammu and Kashmir (India). *D. bulgarica* has been found in a range of climates including temperate and Mediterranean/subtropical climates, suggesting it could establish in many countries in the EPPO region. More studies are needed on the biology, host range, cultivar susceptibility and geographical distribution of *D. bulgarica*. There is a range of control measures available, including removal of dead wood and fruit, application of broad-spectrum fungicides for apple diseases and potential biological control options using endophytic bacteria. It was previously considered that *D. bulgarica* was mainly present in organic production systems, however recent evidence indicates that *D. bulgarica* can establish and cause significant damage in conventional orchards suggesting chemical control measures may not be as effective as previously thought. Following a pest categorisation study, EFSA conclude that *D. bulgarica* could establish across Europe and should be considered to be a potential Union quarantine pest.

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland (2025) Express Pest Risk Analysis *Diplodia bulgarica*. Accessible at: https://pra.eppo.int/pra/cdbd1a84-5bb0-4e9b-ac4f-38aeac22a2fe
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Phillips AJ, Lopes J, Abdollahzadeh J, Bobev S, Alves A (2012) Resolving the *Diplodia* complex on apple and other *Rosaceae* hosts. *Persoonia-Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution of Fungi* **29**(1), 29-38 http://dx.doi.org/10.3767/003158512X658899

Panel review date –

Entry date 2026-03

Additional key words: Alert List

Computer codes: DIPBBU

2026/072 First report of *Ceratobasidium theobromae* on cassava in Suriname

Ceratobasidium theobromae (syn. *Rhizoctonia theobromae)* was recently recorded from South America and is considered as an emerging pest of global concern by the IPPC (EPPO RS 2025/408, RS 2026/002).

Symptoms of cassava witches broom disease have been observed in Suriname since the end of 2025. At the end of February 2026, samples were taken in cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) fields in Marowijne region, and the identity of the pathogen was confirmed as being *Ceratobasidium theobromae* by the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS). The NPPO of Suriname has not yet officially confirmed the presence of the pathogen on its territory. The NPPO has been conducting national surveys and training for farmers. As of February 2026, the NPPO stated that Coronie and Nickerie regions are free of cassava witches broom disease.

Source: StarNeuws (2026-02-27) CELOS identificeert oorzaak cassaveziekte: schimmel bedreigt voedselteelt [CELOS identifies cause of cassava disease: fungus threatens food production] https://dagbladdewest.com/2026/02/27/nieuwe-schimmel-bedreigt-cassaveproductie-in-suriname/

Suriname Ministry of Agriculture
- 2026-02-23: DOAB en LVV onderzoeken melding van cassaveziekte in Marowijne [DOAB and LVV investigate report of cassava disease in

Marowijne]. https://gov.sr/doab-en-lvv-onderzoeken-melding-van-cassaveziekte-in-marowijne/
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Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ONCOTH, SR

2026/073 Update on the maize ear rot caused by *Trichoderma afroharzianum* in Europe

Trichoderma afroharzianum has been added to the EPPO Alert List because of concerns that it was associated with severe ear rot symptoms in maize (*Zea mays*) but its pathogenicity has been contested (EPPO RS 2022/087, RS 2023/194, RS 2024/140).

In 2018-2024, *Trichoderma* spp. strains were isolated from 54 sampling sites from maize cobs and agricultural soil in various locations across Europe (mainly Germany but also Austria, France, Italy, Türkiye). *Trichoderma* ear rot disease was first identified in Austria in Neustift, Heiligenkreuz, and Rudersdorf (Nordburgenland region, near the borders with Slovakia and Hungary). Pathogenic *T. afroharzianum* isolates were also recovered for the first time from Türkiye: in Salihli (Manisa province, Aegean region) and Tarsus (Mersin province, Mediterranean region). In France, *T. afroharzianum* isolates were recovered from new regions: Aquitaine and Bourgogne.

T. afroharzianum was the only species exhibiting high pathogenicity on maize cobs. Other *Trichoderma* species, such as *T. harzianum* colonized maize cobs endophytically without causing symptoms.

The study showed that *T. afroharzianum* is prevalent in warmer and drier regions of Europe, and absent in cooler, wetter northern regions. This suggests that temperature and precipitation are key factors influencing the occurrence of pathogenic *Trichoderma* species.

Source: Pfordt A, Douanla-Meli C, Voll F, Schrader G, Schäfer BC, von Tiedemann A (2026) Effect of temperature and precipitation on the occurrence of Trichoderma ear rot in Europe. Phytopathology Research **8**(1), 11. https://doi.org/10.1186/s42483-025-00396-4

Pfordt A, Von Tiedemann A (2025) Commentary: Is Trichoderma ear rot on maize really a new dangerous plant disease? Frontiers in Agronomy **7**, 1544363. https://doi.org/10.3389/fagro.2025.1544363

Pfordt A, Steffen L, Raz T, Naumann M (2024) Impact of *Trichoderma afroharzianum* infection on fresh matter content and grain quality in maize. *Frontiers in plant science* ***15***, 1436201. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2024.1436201

Pictures: *Trichoderma afroharzianum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TRCDAF/photos

Additional key words: detailed record, new record **Computer codes:** TRCDAF, DE, AT, TR

2026/074 First report of *Trichoderma afroharzianum* as a pathogen of maize in India

Harish *et al*. (2025) first report *Trichoderma afroharzianum* (EPPO Alert list) as a pathogen of maize (*Zea mays*) in India. It was reported to cause post flowering stalk rot. Other fungi, such as *Fusarium verticillioides* and other Fusarium species, have been already recorded as causing stalk rot in maize in India.

Symptomatic maize stalks were collected in 3 states of India in 2022. *T. afroharzianum* was identified in Karnataka, and *T. harzianum* in Rajasthan and Telangana. A pathogenicity test was conducted and confirmed Koch's postulates.

Palavi *et al.* (2025) also reported Trichoderma ear rot in Karnataka caused by *Trichoderma asperellum* and *T. atroviride*.

Source: Harish J, Prasannakumar MK, Karan R, Venkateshbabu G, Vamsidharreddy N, Pallavi KN, Patil SS, Devanna P, Manjunatha C, Mahesh HB (2025) *Trichoderma* spp. as a novel pathogen for maize post-flowering stalk rot in India. *Crop Protection* **195**, 107255.

Pallavi KN, Prasannakumar MK, Karan R, Harish J, Mahesh HB, Kavya N, Balasundara DC, Vamsidharreddy N, Ayesha RN (2025) Trichoderma ear rot: insights into grain quality degradation, trichothecene risk and metabolic alterations in maize. *Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology* **140**, 102911(abst.)

Pictures: *Trichoderma afroharzianum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TRCDAF/photos/

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TRCDAF, TRCDHR, TRCDAS, TRCDAT, FUSAVR, IN

2026/075 First reports of *Trichoderma* spp. as crop pathogens in China

Different *Trichoderma* species were recently reported as causing crop diseases in maize *(Zea mays*) and morel (*Morchella sextelata*) in China.

Maize ear rot with prominent bluish-green fungal symptoms have been observed across major maize-production regions in China, including Liaoning, Hainan, Beijing, and Henan provinces, from 2022 to 2025. A survey was conducted and *T. asperellum*, *T. harzianum* and *Penicillium* spp. were isolated from maize cobs and stalks. Pathogenicity tests showed that *Trichoderma asperellum* can cause maize ear rot.

During field surveys conducted in 2023–2024 at commercial morel farms in Chengde city (Hebei province) and Meihekou city (Jilin province), fruiting bodies of morel (*Morchella sextelata*) were observed to be heavily colonized by dense white hyphae, exhibiting characteristic symptoms of white mould. In severe cases, infected tissues showed progressive withering and collapse. The disease was highly transmissible and difficult to manage once established. The pathogens were identified as *Trichoderma afroharzianum* (EPPO Alert list) and *T. tomentosum*.

Source: Liu K, Huang X, Liang R, Wang Y, Bai M, Wang L, Sossah FL, Zhang C (2026) White mold of *Morchella sextelata* caused by *Trichoderma afroharzianum* and *T. tomentosum* in China. *Plant Biosystems* **160**(2), 55.

Wang W, Xiao S, Que F, Le L, Su A, Zhou Z, Zhu X, Zhang Y, Shi L, Zhong T, Zhang H (2026) Maize knows friends or foes? the dark side of *Trichoderma asperellum* as a maize ear rot pathogenic fungus. *Plant biotechnology journal* (early view). https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.70489

Pictures: *Trichoderma afroharzianum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TRCDAF/photos/

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TRCDAF, TRCDAS, TRCDTO, CN

2026/076 Official measures against *Phytophthora pluvialis* no longer apply in the United Kingdom

Phytophthora pluvialis (EPPO Alert List) was first detected in the EPPO region in 2021 in the United Kingdom affecting western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*). Six demarcated areas were established in England, three in Scotland, and five in Wales with associated official measures (EPPO RS 2021/227, RS 2022/060, RS 2024/040).

The NPPO of the United Kingdom recently notified the EPPO Secretariat of their decision to lift restrictions. Scientific studies showed that timber was not a major pathway for spread, and that the commercial value of timber was not significantly affected by the disease. In addition, surveillance data confirmed no positive findings had been identified at any nursery sites in the regulated areas. A revised PRA concluded that *P. pluvialis* poses a low environmental and economic risk.
Demarcated areas have been revoked in England and will also be lifted in Scotland and Wales.

Source: NPPO of the United Kingdom (2026-03). https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tree-disease-restrictions-lifted-across-seven-counties

Rapid risk Analysis for Phytophthora pluvialis (updated March 2026). https://pra.eppo.int/pra/9bf446a3-733a-43e6-88b9-3a8741340126

Pictures: *Phytophthora pluvialis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYTUV/distribution

Additional key words: regulation, detailed record **Computer codes:** PHYTUV, GB

2026/077 First report of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Ukraine

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Ukraine. In April 2025, tomato brown rugose fruit virus was detected from symptomatic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) plants grown in greenhouses in Khmelnytskyi oblast (western Ukraine) and Cherkasy oblast (central Ukraine). The identity of the pathogen was confirmed by molecular testing.

The situation of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Ukraine can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed.**

Source: Shevchenko O, Pozhylov I, Shevchenko T, Andriichuk O, Korotieieva H, Budzanivska I (2026) First report of tomato brown rugose fruit virus infecting greenhouse tomatoes in Ukraine. *Journal of Plant Pathology* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-026-02168-1

Pictures: *Tobamovirus fructirugosum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOBRFV/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TOBRFV, UA

2026/078 First report of African eggplant mosaic virus in Switzerland and in the EPPO region

African eggplant mosaic virus (*Potyvirus melongenae*, AEMV) was first detected in a sample of African eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum)* from Tanzania dating back to 2013, and had not been reported from anywhere else in the world since.
In August 2025, AEMV was identified simultaneously on three farms in Ticino (Switzerland), all of which had received plants from the same nursery in Italy. Infested plants are tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and presented symptoms on fruits.

The pest status of African eggplant mosaic virus in Switzerland is officially declared as: **Present, in specific parts of the country, where host crop(s) are grown**.

Source: NPPO of Switzerland (2026-02).

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** AEMV00, CH

2026/079 First report of wheat mosaic virus in France and in the EU

Wheat mosaic virus, also known as High Plains wheat mosaic virus (*Emaravirus tritici,* WMoV, – formerly EPPO Alert List), is first reported in France and in the EU. It is the causal agent of the High Plains disease of wheat and maize, which was first described in the USA in 1993. In the EPPO region, it was so far only detected in Ukraine (EPPO RS 2020/128), and it was reported in 2023 in Iran and Iraq.

WMoV was detected in France in the framework of a study of the virome of cereal grains by HTS in 2022–2023. WMoV was detected in volunteer plants that had developed during the summer from seeds that had fallen at harvest from the previous crop. It was detected in oat (*Avena sativa)* in Charente Maritime department in 2022 and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) collected in 2023 in the Tarn and Loir-et-Cher departments.
The genetic characterization of two isolates suggests that WMoV may have been present for a significant period in France. Alternatively, it could also be a recent introduction from an area where the variants have not yet been characterized.
The impact of the presence of WMoV in France is also unclear. High Plains disease symptoms have not been reported in the country. However, it is noted that symptoms may have been wrongly attributed to wheat streak mosaic virus (*Tritimovirus tritici,* WSMV).

Source: Candresse T, Svanella-Dumas L, Huang A, Faure C, Comte R, Marais A (2026) Characterization of French isolates of wheat mosaic virus and identification of multiple variants of genomic RNAs 5 and 6. *Archives of Virology* **171**(2), 35.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** WHPV00, FR

2026/080 First report and eradication of American plum line pattern virus in the United Kingdom

The NPPO of the United Kingdom recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of American plum line pattern virus (*Ilarvirus APLPV* – EPPO A1 List) on its territory.

Samples were taken from a cherry tree (*Prunus* sp.) showing generic virus symptoms which was located on the edge of a small urban wooded area in North Yorkshire (England). The survey and testing were undertaken as part a research project to develop genomic diagnostic

methods for different pathogens. The tree was sampled on two occasions in 2023 and 2024, and the samples were tested by High Throughput Sequencing (HTS) along with other similar samples in November 2025. APLPV was detected in the sample of the *Prunus* sp. and official measures were taken to destroy the tree. No other symptomatic hosts were identified in the area.

The status of American plum line pattern virus in the United Kingdom is officially declared as: **Absent: pest eradicated.**

Source: NPPO of the United Kingdom (2026-03).

Pictures: *Ilarvirus APLPV*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/APLPV0/photos

Additional key words: new record, eradication, absence **Computer codes:** APLPV0, GB

2026/081 Distribution of *Heracleum mantegazzianum* in Italy

Heracleum mantegazzianum (Apiaceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) is invasive in managed and unmanaged ecosystems. It presents a threat to biodiversity, eroding riverbanks, decreasing recreational resources, causing economic losses and posing a health risk to humans as the sap can cause skin blistering on contact. In Italy, seeds of the species were first introduced in 1890 and since it has been planted for scientific and ornamental purposes. *H. mantegazzianum* has escaped cultivation and has become invasive in Italy in several areas but it has also disappeared from a number of sites due to successful management or as it has failed to establish. A study was conducted to map the current distribution of *H. mantegazzianum* using field surveys, herbarium collections, and data from the current literature. In total, *H. mantegazzianum* is recorded in 182 sites in the natural environment spanning latitudes from 44° to 47° North and longitudes from 7° to 13°East. Habitats include riparian areas (89 records), ruderal areas (68), and human-maintained grasslands (21), followed by habitat types represented by far fewer populations: wetlands (4), open forests (4), scrub (3), natural grasslands (2), and agricultural areas (1). *H. mantegazzianum* remains widespread in northern Italy, in particular in the Alpine region. Even with a concerted effort to control the species following its inclusion as a species of (EU) Union concern, further control measures are required to reduce its negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Source: Celesti-Grapow L, Brundu G, Citterio S, Galasso G, Gentili R, Alessandrini A, Argenti C, Barni E, Bona I, Boscutti F, Castello M, Mainetti A, Martini F, Prosser F, Selvaggi A, Villani M, Wilhalm T, Montagnani C (2026) Distribution of the invasive giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* in Italy. *BioInvasions Records* **15**(1), 1–11, https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2026.15.1.01

Pictures: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/HERMZ/photos

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, detailed record

Computer codes: HERMZ, IT

2026/082 Stoichiometric homeostasis as a trait to predict invasiveness

Alternanthera philoxeroides (Amaranthaceae, EPPO A2 List) is an emergent aquatic plant that can be found growing in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The species originates from South America, and it is invasive in Australia, the USA, New Zealand and numerous countries of Asia (e.g. India, Thailand). The invasive success of *A. philoxeroides*, and other invasive plant species, is often attributed to some of their traits, such as phenotypic plasticity, spatial growth, fecundity, leaf area, functional traits and resource-use efficiency. Stoichiometric homeostasis is the ability of an organism to maintain constant internal nutrient ratios or concentrations despite environmental fluctuations. Stoichiometric homeostasis has the potential to be used as an additional trait to predict the potential invasiveness of a species. A study was conducted in China where *A. philoxeroides* plants were collected along with the soil from 45 sites (across different latitudes and longitudes) and analysed for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium homeostasis. These measurements were also carried out in the associated soils. The results showed that nitrogen and phosphorus homeostasis in leaves was high and stable across the sites and potassium homeostasis increased with latitude. Potassium plays an important role in plant metabolism to support plant functions of vegetative growth and storage structures. *A. philoxeroides* may conservatively utilise potassium to ensure rapid growth, and its ability to spread into new environments, promoting its rapid expansion in China.

Source: Gao A, Xiao H, Chen F, Zhang M, Yang J, Zhang J, Zhang Z, Balah MA, Delgado AN, Wu A (2026) High and stable nutrient homeostasis correlates with the invasion of *Alternanthera philoxeroides*. *Biological Invasions*. **28**, 35 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-025-03708-z

Pictures: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ALRPH/photos

Additional key words: invasive alien plants **Computer codes:** ALRPH, CN

2026/083 Performance of *Solanum carolinense* populations in the native and introduced range in the USA and Japan

Solanum carolinense (Solanaceae - EPPO A2 List) is a weedy species in its native range (North America) where it can have a negative impact on agriculture and pastureland. It can reproduce both by seed and vegetatively; it can grow rapidly and thrives in a variety of biotic and abiotic conditions. In the EPPO region, it can invade a number of different crops where it can have localised negative impacts. In Japan, *S. carolinense* is considered a moderately invasive species and a study was conducted to assess if *S. carolinense* follows the predictions of the Enemy Release Hypothesis including (1) introduced plants leave behind their suite of natural enemies and (2) a reduction in natural enemies promotes invasiveness by releasing populations from constraints that limit population growth. Surveys were conducted in the USA and Japan to compare herbivore damage levels and ramet densities in populations of the plant. Although a similar level of herbivore abundance from across different taxonomic groups were found, lower levels of damage were shown in populations of *S. carolinense* in Japan compared to the USA. Ramet density was significantly higher in the introduced range (2 to 14 stems m^{-2}) compared to the native range (0.2–3.7 stems m^{-2}). Therefore, in Japan, *S. carolinense* follows the predictions set out in the Enemy Release Hypothesis, even though the species is currently not displacing native plants and is not considered as a highly invasive species.

Source: Halpern SL, Ohgushi T, Utsumi S, Kim TN (2026) Enemy reduction on *Solanum carolinense* in introduced populations in Japan. *Biological Invasions* **28**, 72. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-026-03789-4

Pictures: *Solanum carolinense*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SOLCA/photos

Additional key words: invasive alien plants **Computer codes:** SOLCA, JP, US

2026/084 Horizon scanning for alien plant species for the arctic region

In recent decades, the terrestrial Arctic is under increasing pressure from biological invasions due to a rise in human activities and climate change. Previous studies have identified 341 alien plant taxa in the Arctic of which, 188 had become naturalised with 11 taxa considered invasive. In 2024, a new horizon scanning study was conducted using the Global Naturalized Alien Flora database (GloNAF) which contains 13 939 vascular plant taxa known to be naturalised or alien worldwide and climate data to evaluate if each taxa has the potential to establish in the Arctic biogeographical region. This resulted in the identification of 2 554 plant taxa that had the potential to establish in the Arctic region. The five potential new alien species with the largest projected areas of climatic suitability in the Arctic were *Arnica*

angustifolia (Asteraceae) which may find suitable climatic conditions across 95% of the Arctic region, followed by *Koeleria spicata* (Poaceae) (94%), *Micranthes nelsoniana* (Saxifragaceae) (93%), *Alnus alnobetula* (Betulaceae) (84%) and *Senecio nemorensis* (Asteraceae) (62%). While new plant introductions may provide some benefits in a rapidly warming Arctic, such as ecological functions or services that support ecosystem resilience, others species may have negative consequences. Therefore, with limited resources, management methods should balance monitoring of potentially harmful taxa with the inevitability of ecological change in the region.

Source: Ulsted TH, Westergaard KB, Dawson W, Speed JDM (2025) Horizon scanning of potential new alien vascular plant species and their climatic niche space across the Arctic. *NeoBiota* **104,** 1–26. https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.104.165054

Additional key words: invasive alien plants

Computer codes: ARXAL, MQZNE, SENNE, TRXSP, **AQ**