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2026/202 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**

Acanalonia conica (Hemiptera: Acanaloniidae) is first reported from Russian Federation. Two specimens of this North American planthopper were collected in light traps: one in Krasnodar City in 2024, and one in the surroundings of Pokrovsky village in 2025 (both in Krasnodar Territory, Southern Russia) (Popov *et al.*, 2026). **Present, not widely distributed.**

Amrasca biguttula (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae, EPPO Alert List) is officially reported from Gabon. It has been observed damaging okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) since 2023 in Estuaire Province (IPPC, 2026).

The pest status of *Amrasca biguttula* in Gabon is officially declared as: **Present, at low prevalence.**

Parasaissetia nigra (Hemiptera: Coccidae, formerly EU RNQP) is first recorded from Uzbekistan. Specimens were found in 2019 in Andijan Region on *Ficus elastica*. In 2025 it was found on *Ficus benjamina* in Fergana region in urban green areas and ornamental plant nurseries. This is the first record in Central Asia (Sobirov *et al.*, 2026). **Present, not widely distributed.**

- **Detailed records**

In the USA, *Chrysobothris mali* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae, EPPO A1 List) is a wood borer causing damage in fruit orchards. It is considered as a reemerging pest of walnut orchards (*Juglans regia*) in California since the end of the 2010s (Rijal *et al.*, 2026)

In the USA, *Phyllachora maydis* (EPPO Alert List) causes tar spot on maize (*Zea mays*) and is mainly reported in the north-east part of the country. In August 2026, it was first reported in North Carolina, in Randolph County (NC State Extension, 2026).

The citrus snow scale *Unaspis citri* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae, EPPO A1 List) is reported from Bahia (Brazil) (Santos De Jesus *et al.*, 2026).

In India, potato virus S (*Carlavirus sigmasolani*, PVS - EU Quarantine pest 2019/2072 Annex II A for non-European isolates) is first reported in one location in Kerala and across Tamil Nadu state. It was detected on symptomatic passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*) plants during surveys conducted between 2023 and 2025. Co-infection of PVS with passiflora latent virus (*Carlavirus latenspassiflorae*, PLV) and cucumber mosaic virus (*Cucumovirus CMV*, CMV - EU RNQP 2019/2072 Annex IV) was reported in Kerala and in two locations in Tamil Nadu. This is also the first report of potato virus S infecting passion fruit (Madhu *et al.*, 2026).

In Australia, *Liriomyza huidobrensis* (Diptera: Agromyzidae - EPPO A2 List) was first found in New South Wales and Queensland states in October and December 2020 (EPPO RS 2021/001). The pest was detected for the first time in Tasmania on host plants and confirmed by molecular testing in June 2026. As of September 2026, *L. huidobrensis* has been reported at multiple sites in North West Tasmania and is considered established in the environment (Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, 2026).

In the USA, *Agilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae - EPPO A2 List) has been found for the first time in Washington state in August 2026 (WSDA, 2026). *A. planipennis* mainly occurs in the eastern part of the USA and Canada. On the west coast of North America it was previously reported in the neighbouring state of Oregon and in British Columbia (Canada).

Watermelon silver mottle virus (*Orthospovirus citrullomaculosi* - EPPO A1 List) is reported for the first time from Jiangsu province, China in samples collected between 2023 and 2024 in cucumber (*Cucumis sativum*) crops (Yang *et al.*, 2026).

In Denmark, the oak processionary moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae - EU PZ Quarantine pest ((EU) 2019/2072 Annex III)) was first reported in 1996 and since has been observed at over 35 localities. The first established population was recognized in 2024 in the municipality of Odense (Justesen *et al.*, 2026).

- **New host plants**

Elasmopalpus lignosellus (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, formerly EPPO Alert List) is reported for the first time on *Eucalyptus* plantations in Brazil. *E. lignosellus* was detected causing mortality of saplings of *Eucalyptus urograndis* (*E. urophylla* x *E. grandis*) in Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso do Sul states in Brazil in December 2023. Between 2023 and 2025 the outbreak covered over 20 000 ha. Although both larvae and adults were detected in the plants, the authors consider that further research should confirm that *Eucalyptus* are true hosts of the pest. Prior to this report, this polyphagous pest was mainly known to be causing damage to annual agricultural crops. (Souza *et al.*, 2026).

Meloidogyne fallax (EPPO A2 List) is reported for the first time on coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) plants showing stunting and poor root development in a commercial farm in Norfolk (United Kingdom) (Moura de Souza *et al.* 2026).

Experiments with the elm borer *Saperda tridentata* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae - formerly EPPO Alert List) showed that adults could feed on European elm species (*Ulmus glabra*, *U. laevis*, *U. minor*, and *U. pumila*) to a similar extent as on *U. americana*. Larvae could also develop in all European elm species tested. Tests on maple species (*Acer campestre*, *A. platanoides*, and *A. pseudoplatanus*), and poplar species (*Populus alba*, *P. nigra*, and *P. tremula*) showed that they were not hosts (Santoemma *et al.*, 2026).

- **Taxonomy**

As a result of phylogenetic analyses, several species in the fungal genus *Gnomoniopsis* are transferred to the genus *Sirococcus*. As a consequence, the two emerging pathogens of chestnuts in Europe and in Asia, respectively *Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi* and *G. daii* are now named *Sirococcus smithogilvyi* and *Sirococcus daii* (Jian *et al.*, 2026).

Sources: Burba PO, Snihur HO, Pozhylov IM, Shevchenko OV, Budzanivska IH (2026) First report of cucumber mosaic virus natural infection in *Euphorbia epithymoides* in Ukraine. *Mikrobiologichnyi Zhurnal*. **88**(2), 78-84.
<https://doi.org/10.15407/microbiolj88.02.078>
 Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (2026-09-11) Biosecurity Tasmania: Serpentine leafminer in Tasmania. Accessed at: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/plant-biosecurity/pests-and-diseases/serpentine-leafminer>

IPPC website. Official Pest Reports - Gabon (2026-08-03): L'effet de la jacie sur les variétés de gombo plantées dans la province de l'Estuaire au Gabon.

<https://www.ippc.int/fr/countries/gabon/pestreports/2026/08/leffet-de-la-jacie-sur-les-varietes-de-gombo-plantees-dans-la-province-de-lestuaire-au-gabon/>

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Moura de Souza VH, Sonawala U, Derevnina L, Eves-van den Akker S (2026) First report of *Meloidogyne fallax* parasitising coriander in the United Kingdom. *Plant Disease* (early view) <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-26-1184-PDN>

NC State Extension (2026-08-31) First report of tar spot of corn confirmed in North Carolina. <https://corn.ces.ncsu.edu/news/first-report-of-tar-spot-of-corn-confirmed-in-north-carolina/>

Popov IB, Leptyagin DO, Neimorovets VV, Gnezdilov VM, Kremneva OY (2026) First record of the family Acanaloniidae Amyot et Audinet-Serville, 1843 (Hemiptera: Fulgoroidea) in Russia. *EPPO Bulletin* 56(3), 303-308. <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.70078>.

Rijal J, Sakaki S, Gyawaly S, Adesso K (2026) Optimizing trap design, lure, and color for monitoring *Chrysobothris mali* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in California walnut orchards. *Environmental Entomology* 55(2), nvag033.

Santoiemma G, Sweeney J, Van Rooyen K, Pureswaran DS, Battisti A, Santini A, Pecori F, Rassati D (2026) European elms as potential hosts of *Saperda tridentata* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). *Environmental Entomology* 55(5), nvag094. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvag094>

Santos De Jesus AF, de Brito Sila SX, Ferreira de Amorim D, de Oliveira Magalhães L, Correia De Souza F (2026) Phytosanitary survey in citrus production units in the municipalities of Apora, Inhambupe, and Satiro Dias. *International Journal of Advanced Research* (IJAR) 14 (07), 1109-1119, <https://doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/23862>

Sobirov OT, Kakhkhorova KR, Turdiyeva DT, Voxidov ST, Turdiyeva FT (2026) Diversity, distribution and pest status of soft scale insects (Hemiptera: Coccoomorpha: Coccidae) in Fergana Valley agroecosystems, Uzbekistan: implications for phytosanitary monitoring and integrated pest management. *Phytoparasitica* 54(5), 107. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12600-026-01436-1>

Washington State Department of Agriculture (2026-08) State officials confirm first detection of emerald ash borer in Washington state. Accessed at: <https://agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/news-and-media-relations/news-releases?article=47256>

Yang L, Sun F, Gao XX, Ren CM, Ji YH (2026) Infection and molecular identification of Watermelon silver mottle virus in cucurbit crops in Jiangsu. *Jiangsu Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 42(1) <https://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1000-4440.2026.01.005> (abstract).

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

Computer codes: 1SIROG, ACNLCO, AGRPL, CHRBMA, CMV000, ELASLI, EMPOBI, GNMPCA, GNMPDA, LIRIHU, MELGFA, PLV000, PVS000, SAPETR, THAUPR, WMSMOV, AU, BR, CN, DK, GA, GB, IN, RU, US

2026/203 Recent updates in the EPPO Global Database

The EPPO Global Database is continuously updated with new information. Some recent updates are listed here.

The following new datasheets have been published:

- *Agrilus mali* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae, EPPO A2 List):
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLMA/datasheet>
- *Tetranychus mexicanus* (Acari: Tetranychidae, EPPO A1 List):
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TETRME/datasheet>
- *Xylotrechus pyrrhoderus* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, EPPO A1 List):
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLOPY/datasheet>

The distribution maps have been revised for the following pests:

- *Vespa velutina* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae - EU IAS of concern):
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/VESPVE/distribution>
- *Aonidiella orientalis* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae):
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AONDOR/distribution>
- *Ceratitis quinaria* (Diptera: Tephritidae- EU Quarantine pest) :
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERTQU/distribution>
- watermelon silver mottle virus (*Orthotospovirus citrullomaculosi*, WSMoV - EPPO A1 List): <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/WMSMOV/distribution>

The host lists have been revised for the following pests:

- *Ceratitis capitata* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EPPO A2 List)
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERTCA/hosts>
- *Anastrepha ludens* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EPPO A1 List)
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTLU/hosts>
- *Anastrepha serpentina* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU Quarantine pest as *Anastrepha* spp.) <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTSE/hosts>

Common names: over 18 000 common names of pests and plants in Russian have been checked by Russian experts. As a result, over 400 names were amended and nearly 200 added.

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2026-09)

Additional key words: host plant, datasheet, distribution

Computer codes: ANSTLU, ANSTSE, AONDOR, CERTCA, CERTQU, TETRME, VESPVE, WMSMOV, XYLOPY, EPPO, RU

2026/204 Changes to the EU list of pests subject to temporary prohibition

The EU Commission has recently established measures to prevent the introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of the following pests into the European Union:

- *Copitarsia decolora* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
- *Lagria villosa* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae - EPPO Alert List).

These pests are added to the list of pests subject to temporary prohibition until a full risk analysis has been carried out. Preliminary risk assessments conducted by Spain for *C. decolora* and by the Netherlands for *L. villosa* concluded that the pests fulfil the criteria for quarantine pests. The temporary measures will apply until 30 June 2031.

In addition, the temporary measures for *Chloridea virescens* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae - EPPO A1 List), *Homona magnanima* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae - EU Emergency measures) and *Spodoptera ornithogalli* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae - EPPO A1 List) have been extended until 31 May 2030. This extension will allow the completion of assessments to determine whether these pests should be listed as Union quarantine pests.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1533 of 9 July 2026 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards the temporary prohibition of introduction into, movement within, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests in the Union territory. OJ L, 2026/1553, 10.7.2026, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/1553/oj/eng

NVWA (2025) Quick scan for *Lagria villosa*. Available at <https://pra.eppo.int/pr/628130c9-68cf-47fb-b804-c7c7184c739e>

Additional key words: regulations

Computer codes: COPITU, LAGRVL, HELIVI, HOMOMA, PRODOR, EU

2026/205 First report of *Diaphorina citri* in Greece

In the EPPO region, the Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri* (vector of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' - Hemiptera: Psyllidae - EPPO A1 List) was first reported in Israel in 2022 (EPPO RS 2022/032), and in Cyprus in 2023 (RS 2023/178). It is under official control in both countries.

D. citri was recently first reported from Greece. It was detected on the Island of Rhodes at the end of August 2026.

The insect was caught in traps placed in a citrus orchard within the framework of annual official surveys. The identity of the pest was confirmed by the Benaki Phytopathological Institute. Eradication measures are applied and surveillance will be intensified on the island. A communication campaign is conducted to raise awareness of professionals.

The pest status of *Diaphorina citri* in Greece is officially declared as: **Present, only on the island of Rhodes, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Greece (2026-09).

General directorate of Agricultural economy and development (Region of Crete)
Πρώτη εμφάνιση της ασιατικής ψύλλας των εσπεριδοειδών (*Diaphorina citri*) στην Ελλάδα (First appearance of the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) in Greece).
Press release (2026-09-09). <https://geoteepk-gr/proti-emfanisi-tis-asiatikis-psyllas-ton-esperidoeidon-diaphorina-citri-stin-ellada>

Phytoma (2026-09-18) *Diaphorina citri* alcanza Grecia.
<https://phytoma.com/noticias/diaphorina-citri-alcanza-grecia>

Pictures: *Diaphorina citri*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DIAACI/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: DIAACI, GR

2026/206 First report of *Lycorma delicatula* in Hungary

The spotted lanternfly *Lycorma delicatula* (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae - EPPO A1 List) is an Asian pest which was introduced in the USA in 2014 (EPPO RS 2015/023) and then spread to several other US states despite official control measures. It was first reported in the EPPO region in the Republic of Moldova in August 2026 (RS 2026/183).

L. delicatula is first reported from Hungary. In July 2026 a private individual reported the presence of an unidentified planthopper in his garden in Lakitelek (Bács-Kiskun County, southern Hungary) to the NPPO of Hungary. Samples were taken by the NPPO, and the pest was identified as *Lycorma delicatula* based on laboratory tests. Both nymphs and adults were observed on *Parthenocissus* sp. plants, and the private individual reported observations of the pest at the same site in 2025. Further investigations are ongoing to determine the extent and duration of the infestation and the possible pathway of introduction. A possible association with wooden crates previously brought to the property is being investigated. Eradication measures are applied.

The pest status of *Lycorma delicatula* in Hungary is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

Source: NPPO of Hungary (2026-09).

Pictures: *Lycorma delicatula*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LYCMDE/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: LYCMDE, HU

2026/207 Incursion of *Lycorma delicatula* in Canada

The spotted lanternfly *Lycorma delicatula* (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae - EPPO A1 List) is an Asian pest which was introduced into the USA in 2014 (EPPO RS 2015/023) and then spread to several other US states despite official control measures.

L. delicatula is first reported from Canada. It was detected in September 2026 in the municipality of Windsor (Ontario). No established population of *L. delicatula* has been confirmed in Canada to date.

L. delicatula is a regulated pest in Canada since 2018. Official measures are applied and include restrictions of movement of infested plant material. A delimiting survey is conducted.

The situation of *Lycorma delicatula* in Canada can be described as: **Present, transient.**

Source: CFIA (2026) Spotted lanternfly. <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-pests-and-plants/insects/spotted-lanternfly> (updated 2026-09-17)

IPPC Pest Alert: First detection of the POARS emerging pest, *Lycorma delicatula*, in Canada (2026-09-18) <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/programmes/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/pest-alerts-d/5/>

Pictures: *Lycorma delicatula*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LYCMDE/photos>

Additional key words: new record, incursion

Computer codes: LYCMDE, CA

2026/208 First report of *Aonidiella orientalis* in the Netherlands

The NPPO of the Netherlands recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of the oriental scale *Aonidiella orientalis* (Hemiptera : Diaspididae) on its territory.

In September 2026, *A. orientalis* was identified on leaves on two coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) plants in a tropical greenhouse in a zoo. A specific survey for several zoos had been triggered following earlier records dating back to 2023 on the same *C. nucifera* plants and one *Washingtonia* sp. plant in another zoo. The presence on *Washingtonia* sp. in the other zoo could not be confirmed. No phytosanitary measures have been taken because of the limited damage observed on the plants and of uncertainties on the distribution of the pest in the European Union. Detection is difficult due to similarities with other related scale species which are present in the EU such as *Aonidiella aurantii*.

The pest status of *Aonidiella orientalis* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present, few occurrences in a tropical greenhouse.**

Note of the EPPO Secretariat: A pest categorization on *A. orientalis* has been conducted by EFSA in 2022 and concluded that this species meets the criteria to be regarded as a potential EU quarantine pest. Currently phytosanitary requirements linked to this species apply at import for some plants originating in Israel according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213.

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-09).

EFSA PLH Panel (2022) Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Aonidiella orientalis*. EFSA Journal 20(11), 7642, 42 pp.
<https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7642open>

Pictures: *Aonidiella orientalis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AONDOR/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: AONDOR, NL

2026/209 Incursion of *Pomacea canaliculata* in Germany

The NPPO of Germany recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of the golden apple snail *Pomacea canaliculata* (Architaenioglossa: Ampullariidae - EPPO A1 List) on its territory.

In August 2026, a private individual reported three specimens and one egg cluster in a small garden pond in the state of Sachsen. The snails had been transferred shortly beforehand from an aquarium to the pond, where feeding damage was observed on aquatic plants. The pest was identified in September 2026 by molecular testing by the National Reference Laboratory. Visual inspections were conducted by the NPPO of Germany around the pond and no additional snails or eggs were found. The three snails and egg cluster were removed. No demarcated area has been established. Further inspections are planned for 2027.

The NPPO of Germany considers that *P. canaliculata* cannot establish in this area due to cold winter temperatures.

The pest status of *Pomacea canaliculata* in Germany is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Germany (2026-09).

Pictures: *Pomacea canaliculata*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POMACA/photos>

Additional key words: new report, incursion

Computer codes: POMACA, DE

2026/210 First report of *Pagiocerus frontalis* in Tanzania and in Africa

The bark beetle *Pagiocerus frontalis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae - EU quarantine pest as 'non-European Scolytinae') is a species native to South and Central America up to the south-eastern USA. *P. frontalis* has been associated with avocado (*Persea americana*) seeds and is known as a pest of stored maize (*Zea mays*). *P. frontalis* is reported for the first time in Tanzania and in the continent of Africa.

In December 2018, *P. frontalis* was detected infesting stored maize in Usa River ward (Meru district, Arusha region). The pest was identified by morphological and molecular testing. Laboratory rearing studies determined that *P. frontalis* can feed on maize and avocado seeds and cause an average grain weight loss of about 17 % and grain damage of 10 % of stored maize two months post-harvest. The current distribution in Tanzania has not yet been determined but the authors recommended a national survey. More research is needed to determine the host preference, biology, ecology, distribution and management of *P. frontalis*.

The situation of *Pagiocerus frontalis* in Tanzania can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed.**

Source: Chidege MY, Ndakidemi PA, Venkataramana PB (2026) First record of *Pagiocerus frontalis* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) in stored maize in Africa. *Zootaxa* 5793(1), 184-192.
Chidege MY, Venkataramana PB, Ndakidemi PA (2026) The invasive bark beetle, *Pagiocerus frontalis* (Fabricius): as an emerging maize storage pest in Tanzania. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 17, 1746978. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2026.1746978>

Pictures: *Pagiocerus frontalis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PAGIFR/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: PAGIFR, TZ

2026/211 Update on the situation of several regulated pests in the USA

Lycorma delicatula (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae - EPPO A1 List) is reported in a new state in the USA. The pest has been found for the first time in New Hampshire in the town of Salem (Rockingham County). A small number of adults were reported by experts and identification was confirmed by the USDA. There is currently no evidence of an established population and additional surveys are underway to determine the extent of the infestation (New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, 2026).

Anastrepha ludens (Diptera: Tephritidae, EPPO A1 List) is present in Texas and California. In September 2026, the quarantine area was removed from Hidalgo county (Texas). Currently the pest is present only in two areas in Texas (Webb county and Zapato county) and one area in California (San Diego County).
The pest status of *Anastrepha ludens* in the USA is officially declared as: **Transient, pest under eradication.**

Cydalima perspectalis (Lepidoptera: Crambidae - formerly EPPO Alert List) was first found in the USA in 2021 (RS 2021/119). It is under official control in several states in the north-east part of the country. The pest was first detected in New Jersey in Cape May County in May 2026. A quarantine area has now been established there.
The pest status of *Cydalima perspectalis* in the USA is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Anastrepha serpentina (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU Quarantine pest as *Anastrepha* spp.) is declared eradicated from the country. Three quarantine areas had been established in Texas in February and March 2026 and were removed in August 2026.
The pest status of *Anastrepha serpentina* in the USA is officially declared as: **Absent, pest eradicated.**

Source: NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System. Official Pest Reports

- USA (2026-03-19) *Anastrepha serpentina* (Sapote Fruit Fly): APHIS Establishes Quarantines in Texas. <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1192/>
- USA (2026-08-18) *Anastrepha serpentina* (Sapote Fruit Fly): APHIS Removes Quarantine Areas in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, Texas. <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1206/>
- USA (2026-08-25) *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box Tree Moth): APHIS Establishes Quarantine Areas in Maryland and Pennsylvania. <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1208/>
- USA (2026-09-09) *Anastrepha ludens* (Mexican Fruit Fly): APHIS Removes the Quarantine Area in Hidalgo County, Texas. <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1210/>

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Additional key words: detailed report, eradication, absence

Computer codes: DPHNPE, ANSTSE, ANSTLU, LYCMDE, US

2026/212 Update on the situation of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in the USA

• New York

In the state of New York, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae - EPPO A2 List) was first recorded in 1996 in New York City and regulated areas have been established in several parts of the city and the neighboring counties. As of 2025, quarantine areas only remain in Nassau and Suffolk counties. In August 2026, part of the quarantine areas (7.4 square miles, about 19 km²) were removed in total in both counties. Eradication measures continue in the remaining quarantine areas.

• South Carolina

In South Carolina, *A. glabripennis* was first found in 2020 (EPPO RS 2020/115) in Hollywood (Charleston County). Another outbreak was detected in August 2025 in Mount Pleasant (Charleston County) and additional detections occurred in Hollywood. As a consequence, quarantine areas are extended by 16.5 square miles (42.7 km²) in Mount Pleasant and by 25.2 square miles (65.3 km²) in Hollywood.

The pest status of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in the USA is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System. Official Pest Reports

- USA (2026-08-14) *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian Longhorned Beetle): APHIS Removes Quarantine Areas from Portions of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1202/>
- USA (2026-09-09) *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian Longhorn Beetle): APHIS Expands the Quarantine Area in South Carolina. <https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1211/>

Pictures: *Anoplophora glabripennis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLGL/photos>

Additional key words: detailed report

Computer codes: ANOLGL, US

2026/213 First report of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma in the Republic of Moldova

The National Agency for Food Safety (Agenția Națională pentru Siguranța Alimentelor, ANSA) of Moldova recently reported the first detection Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma (EPPO A2 List) on its territory.

The phytoplasma was detected as part of an official survey on grapevines (*Vitis vinifera*) in several vineyards. Outbreaks have been identified both in mother vineyards intended for the production of planting material and in commercial vineyards. The identity of the pathogen was confirmed by laboratory tests.

Phytosanitary measures are implemented and include the demarcation of affected areas, the destruction of infected plants and restrictions on the movement of *Vitis* planting material.

The situation of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma in Moldova can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed, under official control.**

Source: ANSA (2026-08-28) O boală de carantină a viței-de-vie, depistată de ANSA în Republica Moldova. <https://ccar.gov.md/o-boala-de-carantina-a-vitei-de-vie-depistata-de-ansa-in-republica-moldova/>

Pictures: Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma.
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYP64/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: PHYP64, MD

2026/214 First report of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* on soybean in Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPPO A2 List) was declared absent in 2004 (EPPO RS 2004/007).

In a study published in 2024, *C. flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* was suspected to occur in symptomatic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) plants in Bulgaria, although further testing was needed to confirm the pathovar present (Kizheva *et al.*, 2024).

An article published in 2026 reports that in summer 2020, soybean (*Glycine max*) plants showing chlorotic and necrotic spots on leaves were sampled from an experimental research station in the municipality of Pavlikeni (Oblast Veliko Tărnovo). The pest was identified by molecular testing. This was the first report of *C. flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* with soybean in Bulgaria. The same study reported the presence of *Phytophthora sojae* (formerly EPPO A2 List) in Bulgaria for the first time.

The situation of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in Bulgaria can be described as: **Present, restricted distribution.**

Source: Lyubenova A (2026) *Phytophthora sojae* and other pathogens on soybean (*Glycine max* L. Merrill) detected in Bulgaria. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science* 32(4), 928-936. <https://doi.org/10.61308/gznpdg81>

Kizheva Y, Pandova M, Dimitrova M, Gladicheva Y, Garkova M, Pirnareva D, Donchev D, Moncheva P, Hristova P (2024) First report of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* in Bulgaria. *Pathogens* 13(6), 483. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens13060483>

Pictures: *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*.
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CORBFL/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: CORBFL, BG

2026/215 Eradication of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported the causing vascular wilt of bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) in three fields in the municipality of Altena in September 2024 (EPPO RS 2024/224). Eradication measures were applied including the prohibition to grow Fabaceae in the three fields. Sampling and testing of weeds growing in the vicinity of these fields in 2025 and 2026 confirmed that this outbreak is eradicated.

The pest status of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Absent, pest eradicated.**

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-09).

Pictures: *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*.
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CORBFL/photos>

Additional key words: eradication, absence

Computer codes: CORBFL, NL

2026/216 First report of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Basilicata region (Italy)

In Italy, *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (EU emergency measures) was first detected in Toscana in 2018 (EPPO RS 2019/016) and in Lazio in 2021 (RS 2022/111).

During official surveys conducted in 2026, *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* was detected for the first time in Basilicata region. It was detected in August 2026 on an almond tree (*Prunus dulcis*) in a cultivated area of olive trees intercropped with almond and fruit trees in Matera municipality. The pest identity was confirmed by molecular testing. Eradication measures are applied. A delimiting survey is being undertaken.

The pest status of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication, under containment in case eradication is impossible.**

Source: NPPO of Italy (2026-09).

Pictures: *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLEFM/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: XYLEFM, IT

2026/217 *Xanthomonas prunicola*: an emerging pathogen of wheat in the Americas

Xanthomonas prunicola is a species first described in 2018 as a pest of nectarine (*Prunus persica* var. *nucipersica*) trees in Spain where it was also shown to be pathogenic to peach (*Prunus persica*) (EPPO RS 2018/128).

Recently, *X. prunicola* has emerged as a pathogen of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) in South America and the USA. In Argentina, bacterial leaf streak symptoms have been observed on wheat in Córdoba province since 2018, with disease incidence ranging from 1 to 5%. An isolate obtained from symptomatic wheat was identified as *X. prunicola* by whole-genome sequencing and Koch's postulates were fulfilled. In Uruguay, surveys conducted in 61 wheat fields between 2017 and 2019 detected *Xanthomonas* strains causing dry necrotic lesions, later Clavijo *et al.* (2025) confirmed the identity of these wheat-associated strains as *X. prunicola*.

More recently, in July 2023, *X. prunicola* was identified causing bacterial leaf streak-like symptoms in a winter wheat field in Volga, South Dakota (USA). Affected plants showed necrotic and chlorotic streaks along the leaves and disease incidence was approximately 40% among 100 plants examined. The bacterium was identified by sequence analysis and pathogenicity tests reproduced leaf streak-like symptoms. The bacterium was subsequently reisolated, fulfilling Koch's postulates. This is considered the first confirmed report of *X. prunicola* causing disease on wheat in the USA.

X. prunicola should therefore be considered an emerging pathogen of wheat. Clavijo *et al.* (2025) showed that wheat-associated strains from Uruguay and the USA formed a distinct phylogenomic cluster from nectarine-associated strains. The reference strain isolated from nectarine did not cause symptoms on wheat whereas most wheat-associated strains were able to cause symptoms on peach. Wheat-associated strains may represent a new pathovar or subspecies within *X. prunicola*, but further studies on potential hosts are needed to confirm this.

- Source:** Ahmad M, Gonzalez-Hernandez JL, Solanki S, Glover KD, Ameen G (2026) First report of *Xanthomonas prunicola* causing leaf streak disease on wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) in the United States. *Plant Disease* 110(1), 216. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-25-1194-PDN>
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Pictures: *Xanthomonas prunicola*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XANTPC/photos>

Additional key words: new record, new host plant

Computer codes: XANTPC, AR, US, UY

2026/218 *Cercospora janseana*: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why: *Cercospora janseana* (syn. *Sphaerulina oryzina*) is a fungal pathogen that causes narrow brown leaf spot (NBLS) of rice. Historically, narrow brown leaf spot was considered to be a sporadic and minor disease, but more recently it has reemerged as a problem for rice growers in the Southern USA, especially where rice is grown in ratoon cropping systems. Yield losses up to 40% have been reported. *C. janseana* is seedborne and infected rice seed may provide a pathway for long-distance spread. Considering its increased impact, the NPPO of Spain suggested that *C. janseana* could be usefully added to the Alert List.

Where: *C. janseana* is reported from tropical and subtropical rice-growing regions in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Oceania.

In the EPPO region, record of the presence of *C. janseana* exists in the Russian Federation in the Far East and Southern Russia in the 1990s. However, no recent records were found.

Africa: Angola, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (Guangxi, Hebei, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang), India (Haryana, Karnataka, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh), Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Japan, Korea, Republic of, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

North America: Mexico, USA (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas)

Central America and the Caribbean: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Virgin Islands.

South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil (Amazonas, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo), Colombia, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela.

Oceania: Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands.

On which plants: The main host of *C. janseana* is rice, *Oryza sativa*. It has also been reported on other *Oryza* species, including *O. barthii*, *O. latifolia*, and *O. rufipogon*. It is unclear if historical records on other Poaceae hosts, which may act as alternative hosts, were misidentified and instead are different *Cercospora* species.

Damage: On rice, *C. janseana* affects leaves, sheaths, panicles and grains. Initial symptoms include narrow reddish-brown spots on leaves and sheaths. On susceptible cultivars this can develop into chlorosis and necrosis and early senescence. In severe infections, lesions can extend to panicles and glumes causing grain discolouration, poor grain filling, premature kernel ripening and reduced milling quality. In severe cases, plant lodging has been reported. *C. janseana* predominantly affects rice late in the growing season with peak host vulnerability occurring between heading and maturity. Rice grown in ratoon cropping systems are particularly susceptible due to greater inoculum build-up. In the USA, narrow brown leaf spot disease has been historically considered as a minor disease before 1950s. However, severe outbreaks have been reported since the 2010s despite the use of resistant cultivars.

Panicle disease symptoms from *C. janseana* can be misidentified as neck blast (caused by *Pyricularia grisea*), so identification from symptoms alone can be unreliable.

Dissemination: *C. janseana* overwinters on rice straw and stubble. Conidia (asexual spores) are released from infected hosts under high humidity and temperatures ranging from 20 to

28°C, and are dispersed by wind, rain splash and agricultural machinery. *C. janseana* is known to be seedborne which can facilitate long distance spread. It is suggested that *C. janseana* can also survive in volunteer rice and alternative grass hosts although it is not yet clear how alternative hosts contribute to disease development in rice.

Pathways: Seeds of host plants from countries where *C. janseana* is known to occur. Contaminated crop residues

Possible risks: Rice is an economically important crop grown in the southern part of Europe, Türkiye and around the Black Sea. *C. janseana* requires warm and humid conditions. It is not clear what impact *C. janseana* would have on rice crops grown in the EPPO region if it was established. A range of control strategies are available to control the spread of *C. janseana* including cultural practices such as crop rotation (to reduce inoculum buildup) and early planting of rice, chemical control measures and planting resistant varieties. *C. janseana* has multiple races which has contributed to overcoming host resistance.

The EPPO Secretariat considered that the attention of NPPOs of the EPPO region should be drawn to this reemerging disease which is not present in the EPPO region but could be introduced with infected seeds.

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Additional key words: Alert List

Computer codes: CERCOR

2026/219 Update on the situation 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). In 2026, it was detected in the neighbouring municipality of Angresse in March 2026 (RS 2026/067), and about 60 km away in Lescar (Pyrénées-Atlantiques department, Nouvelle-Aquitaine region) in July (RS 2026/191). Official measures are being applied to monitor the pest, and eradicate the outbreaks.

As a result of surveillance, new detections occurred in Nouvelle-Aquitaine:

- in Orthevielle (Landes department) at the end of August, close to the first outbreak in Seignosse.
- near Lescar, 4 new detections occurred on declining *Pinus* trees reported by individuals in the municipalities of Artix (2 trees), Lons, and Mourenx. As a consequence, four new infested areas of a radius of 500 m have been delimited with surroundings buffer zones

The two delimited areas have been extended accordingly:

- in the area of Seignosse, the delimited area now covers 170 000 ha in the Landes and Pyrénées-Atlantiques departments.
- in the area of Lescar, the delimited area now covers 216 332 ha in the Landes and Pyrénées-Atlantiques departments.

The pest status of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in France is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of France (2026-09).

Maps of regulated areas are available: <https://www.pigma.org/onegeo-maps/##/map/365>

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

Additional key words: detailed record

Computer codes: BURSXY, FR

2026/220 First report of Andean strain of potato virus S in Estonia

Potato virus S (*Carlavirus sigmasolani*, PVS) can be subdivided into three strains, the ordinary strain (PVS-O) which has worldwide distribution including in the EU, and the Andean strains (PVS-A and PVS-RVC) which are considered to be absent from the EU. Non-European isolates of PVS are EU Quarantine pests (under Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 Annex II A).

In Estonia, PVS-O was previously reported at low incidence in potato seed lots tested for certification between 2007 to 2022 (van der Sman *et al.*, 2025). In September 2025, seed lots from 34 potato fields were analysed by high-throughput sequencing (HTS). The Andean strain of potato virus S (PVS-A) was reported from neighbouring fields in Viljandi county where seed potatoes had been grown from seed tubers originating from Germany. The PVS-A isolate showed the highest nucleotide identity with an isolate from Kazakhstan. The identity of the pathogen was later confirmed by RT-PCR testing. van der Sman *et al.* (2026) suggests imported seed material as a possible introduction pathway of PVS-A.

The situation of potato virus S-Andean strain PVS-A in Estonia can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: van Der Sman P, Pata P, Järvekülg L, Sõmera (2026) Long-term monitoring of six potato viruses in Estonian seed potatoes and an assessment of susceptibility of potato varieties to PVY. *Potato Research* **68**(3), 3123-3145.
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<https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-05-26-0980-PDN>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: PVS000, EE

2026/221 Tomato mottle mosaic virus no longer occurs in the Netherlands

Tomato mottle mosaic virus (*Tobamovirus maculatusellati*, ToMMV - formerly EPPO Alert List) was first reported in the Netherlands on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* in 2022 (EPPO RS 2022/168) as well as in seed collections on seed produced in 2007 (RS 2023/095). Apart from the above record from 2022, the virus has never been linked to any cultivation in the Netherlands. ToMMV has never been recorded during official annual surveys in tomato and *Capsicum* crops.

The pest status of ToMMV in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Absent, pest no longer present, confirmed by official surveys.**

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-09).

Pictures: Tomato mottle mosaic virus. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOMMV0/photos>

Additional key words: absence

Computer codes: TOMMV0, NL

2026/222 *Ludwigia peploides* in the Danube Delta, Romania

Ludwigia peploides (Onagraceae: EPPO A2 List) is native to Central and South America and is an invasive alien plant species in the EPPO region. It is mainly an aquatic species, but it is also able to colonize damp terrestrial habitats such as riverbanks or wet meadows. It can also grow on nutrient-poor to nutrient-rich soils and sediments including gravel banks, sand bars, mud and peat. In the EPPO region, rapid and extensive development of *L. peploides* populations can block waterways, irrigation ditches and canals (and thus disturbs many human activities such as navigation, hunting, fishing, irrigation and drainage), reduce biodiversity and degrade water quality.

In the Danube Delta, Romania, *L. peploides* was detected in 2025 during a targeted floristic survey conducted within a project focused on the improvement of water circulation through hydrotechnical works. Ten populations were recorded and these all occurred in lowland freshwater habitats with slow-moving or stagnant water and gently sloping muddy margins. *L. peploides* showed a cover ranging from 60 to 90 % between sites. To avoid further spread, a rapid delimitation survey around the known occurrences is required. Repeated monitoring should be conducted during the growing season. Management should include early mechanical removal of small patches before fragmentation and fruiting and special caution during hydrotechnical works, which may facilitate fragment dispersal.

Source: Doroftei M, Covaliov S, Lupu G, Kvach Y, Kalashnik K (2026) First record of invasive aquatic plant *Ludwigia peploides* (Onagraceae) in the Danube Delta, Romania. *BiolInvasions Records* 15(2), 281-290. <https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2026.15.2.06>

Pictures *Ludwigia peploides*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LUDPE/photos>

Additional key words: invasive alien plant, detailed record

Computer codes: LUDPE, RO

2026/223 First report of *Hydrocharis laevis* in Czechia

Hydrocharis laevis (Hydrocharitaceae, synonym *Limnobium laevigatum*) is a floating aquatic plant native to South and Central America. It can invade freshwater habitats including shallow ponds, lakes, dams, reservoirs, and slow-moving rivers. It has the potential to outcompete native aquatic plant species and change the chemical composition of water bodies. The species has become invasive in Asia, Africa, Australia and North America, and is now spreading through European aquatic habitats. Naturalised populations have been found in Hungary and Spain (EPPO RS 2021/202), and the plant has been observed in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. Recently it has been reported from France (RS 2026/022).

In 2024, two separate populations were discovered in natural aquatic habitats in Czechia for the first time. Occurrences of *H. laevis* were recorded in the Central Bohemian region. The first population was found in a small stream near Český Brod and the second population in a former oxbow lake of the Elbe River near Kolín. The first population consisted of 30 plants. Both populations showed fragmentation of the stolons connecting the leaf rosettes and the plants reproduced vegetatively in their natural habitats. While the exact introduction pathway is unknown, it is likely to be the result of waste disposal by aquarists or gardeners.

Source: Vávra M (2026) First record of non-native aquatic plant *Hydrocharis laevis* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Byng & Christenh. in Czechia. *BiolInvasions Records* 15(2), 271-279. <https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2026.15.2.05>

Additional key words: Invasive alien plants, new record

Computer codes: LIMST, CZ

2026/224 Molecular confirmation of *Myriophyllum rubricaul* in Great Britain

Myriophyllum rubricaul (Haloragaceae: EPPO Alert List) is an amphibious or aquatic species, with only female plants observed in the introduced range. It occurs in slow moving water bodies including rivers, irrigation channels, ponds, lakes, canals and damp ditches. Potential impacts are likely to be similar to that of *M. aquaticum*, although the plant is of more modest dimensions. Dense mats of *M. rubricaul* could block sunlight which may alter the quality of the water body by reducing oxygen levels. This can have a negative impact on invertebrates and plant species in the invaded habitat. Ecosystem services can be negatively affected, for example by reducing access to the water body or blocking irrigation channels. In the EPPO region, *M. rubricaul* is known in Belgium and the Netherlands, where it has escaped from cultivation into the natural environment. It has also been reported from Hungary, and recent iNaturalist records provide locations for Austria, Denmark and Great Britain (EPPO RS 2025/162).

Molecular research was conducted to confirm the identity of field-collected plant samples in England and Wales, and a nursery in Scotland, resembling *M. rubricaul*. Phylogenetic analyses of the *Myriophyllum* samples using combined datasets of four regions (rDNA-ITS, rbcL, trnH-psbA and matK coding-region) and five regions (the rDNA-ITS, rbcL, trnH-psbA, trnK-matK and trnL-trnF) were undertaken using a maximum likelihood method. The results showed that two field-collected samples and one sample from an aquatic plant nursery were identical to *M. rubricaul*, confirming the occurrence of the species in the natural environment in Great Britain.

Source: Kurose D, Tilling AE, Varia S, Pratt CF (2026) First report of field occurrence of *Myriophyllum rubricaul* in Great Britain confirmed through molecular analyses. *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience* 7(1), 0050. <https://doi.org/10.1079/ab.2026.0050>

Pictures *Myriophyllum rubricaul*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MYPRU/photos>

Additional key words: invasive alien plant, detailed record

Computer codes: MYPRU, GB

2026/225 Germination of *Crassula helmsii* seed in Europe

Crassula helmsii (Crassulaceae EPPO A2 List) is a semi-aquatic plant species which can grow in a number of forms (submerged, emergent or semi-terrestrial) depending on environmental conditions. The species is native to Australia and New Zealand and has been introduced into the EPPO region as an oxygenating plant for aquaria and ponds. *C. helmsii* reproduces vegetatively. Seed formation has been confirmed from populations in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. However, it is not clear what role sexual reproduction plays in the ecology of the species.

Seed viability was tested in germination trials using plant material collected from ten populations in Belgium. Seeds were sown on agar and germination was recorded. In a comparative trial, wilted flowers from the same populations (assumed to contain mature seeds) were sown in a soil substrate, with germination estimated based on the number of seeds per flower. *C. helmsii* populations exhibited high germination rates, with an estimated overall mean of 68.5 %. The flower-based trial yielded lower germination (13.8 %). The results show that *C. helmsii* populations in Belgium produce numerous viable seeds that germinate readily and have the potential to form a seedbank. These results can have important implications for the management of this invasive species.

Source: D'hondt B, Brutsaert S, Dermout W, Neukermans A, Packet J, Adriaens T (2026) Seed germination trials of the invasive plant *Crassula helmsii* from nature restoration sites in Belgium. *Plant Ecology and Evolution*, 159, 536-545.

Pictures *Crassula helmsii*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSBHE/photos>

Additional key words: Invasive alien plants, biology

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