

EU plant health rules: Protecting plants. Protecting life.

WHY PLANTS ARE SO IMPORTANT

Plants provide us with...

Food for humans



clothes

fuel

feed for animals

They are important for our...



environment,
landscapes,
and biodiversity.

Increased global plant trade, human travel and climate change all give plant pests and diseases more opportunities to spread.

WHAT THE EU IS DOING TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH

Prevention



Avoiding new plant pests is at the centre of our fight against plant pests and diseases. This is done by:

- import controls
- worldwide screening and surveillance
- early detection and notification

Import rules

All plants (entire plants, fruits, vegetables, etc.) imported into the EU need to be accompanied by a *phytosanitary certificate (exemptions: bananas, coconuts, dates, pineapples and durians). Some specific plants or plant products may not be imported at all due to:

- permanent (e.g. citrus plants for planting, seed potatoes)
- provisional (e.g. oak and apple plants for planting) bans.

Within the EU, all plants moving between businesses require a plant passport.

Dealing with plant pest or disease outbreaks

Outbreaks of plant pests can devastate the environment and the economy as the plant bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* did to olive tree plantations in Southern Europe with potential production losses of **5.5 billion Euros**.

Steps taken by EU before and during an outbreak:

- EU co-financing for survey programmes to check for new pests
- notification of outbreaks by professional operators
- demarcation of areas for pests/disease eradication

Global cooperation

Protecting plant health is a global challenge. The EU is cooperating with countries around the world:

As part of the International Plant Protection Convention of the United Nations, developing global standards to protect plants;

Raising awareness of plant health during the UN International Year for Plant Health 2020.

