



# Changes to the emergency measures for *Xylella*

## Fact sheet

July 2020

### Key points

- The department will be implementing changes to the [emergency measures](#) for the bacterial pathogen, *Xylella fastidiosa* and related *Xylella* species (*Xylella*)<sup>1</sup>, on **3 August 2020**. The changes include:
  - The addition of nine new plant families to be regulated for *Xylella*.
  - Amendments to the list of genera within the 89 plant families that are currently regulated for *Xylella*.
- The changes are essential to managing the biosecurity risk of this invasive pathogen.
  - *Xylella* is Australia's number one [National Priority Plant Pest](#). It causes significant environmental and economic impacts, and is of major concern to Australia's plant industries.

### Background

To manage the risk presented by *Xylella*, the department implemented [emergency quarantine measures](#) in November 2015. Under the measures, plant tissue cultures and other forms of nursery stock imports from 89 plant families known to host *Xylella* need to meet specific requirements (in addition to standard import conditions).

Since August 2018, the department has been undertaking a [Pest Risk Analysis \(PRA\) for \*Xylella\*](#) to assess the risk of all *Xylella* species entering Australia, evaluate the efficacy of emergency measures introduced in 2015, and to justify the continuation of the measures.

Through this work, the department has identified another nine plant families that are hosts for *Xylella*, and has found new information on the 89 plant families that are currently regulated for *Xylella*. These findings mean that updates to the emergency measures are required.

### Key changes

#### 1. Emergency measures will apply to more plant families

The emergency measures will be applied to nine additional plant families (covering 59 genera within the department's [BICON](#) system) that have recently been identified as hosts for *Xylella*. These are: *Cannaceae*, *Gesneriaceae*, *Linaceae*, *Polemoniaceae*, *Resedaceae*, *Scrophulariaceae*,

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<sup>1</sup> Including all of its [sub-species](#).



*Simmondsiaceae*, *Strelitziaceae* and *Tamaricaceae*. These additional families will increase the total number of plant families regulated for *Xylella* from 89 families to 98 families.

## 2. List of plant genera within existing regulated plant families will be updated

Following a review of the list of genera within the 89 plant families that are currently regulated for *Xylella*, the department will be making the following amendments:

- An additional 38 genera will be added to the list, as they belong to a currently regulated plant family.
- 17 genera will be removed from the list, as they do not belong to a regulated plant family.

The list of these genera is available on [BICON](#).

## Emergency measures

While the number of plant families and genera that are to be regulated for *Xylella* is changing, the emergency measures themselves will remain unchanged. These measures are:

- Imports of tissue culture and other forms of nursery stock (such as cuttings, rooted plants, budwood, corms and bulbs) from a country where *Xylella* occurs (i.e. a high risk country) must be tested and certified as being free from *Xylella* by the government of the exporting country. Non-tissue cultured material (i.e. other forms of nursery stock) must also have been produced under an offshore approved arrangement prior to testing and certification<sup>2</sup>, or subject to on-arrival disease screening for 12 months and testing for *Xylella* at an Australian Government post-entry quarantine facility, or hot water treatment.
- Imports of tissue culture and other forms of nursery stock from other countries must be certified by the government of the exporting country as having been grown (including its parent stock) in a country that is free from *Xylella*.

Imports of plant material belonging to a plant family regulated for *Xylella* that do not meet either of the above conditions will be exported or disposed. Onshore remedial action may also be an available option in some cases, but are limited by operational factors such as availability of hot water treatment providers and/or post-entry quarantine services to perform disease screening and testing for *Xylella*. For further information on these measures, see [BICON](#), the department's [website](#) and the attached infographic.

## Pest Risk Assessment

The department expects to release the PRA draft report for a 60-day consultation period in late 2020.

## Keep informed

Keep informed by [subscribing](#) to receive notices about plant biosecurity policies.

## Contact us

Contact us at [imports@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:imports@agriculture.gov.au) for further information about the emergency measures.

<sup>2</sup> Note: no arrangements have been established since emergency measures were introduced in 2015.