



**TRADER NOTICE No. 7 OF 2023**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**To:** All registered professional operators, importers & exporters of plants and plant products

**Subject:** Exporting *Prunus L* plants to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland

*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (bacterial spot and canker) is a disease that is potentially harmful to all *Prunus* species, the most severely affected stone fruit hosts are peach, apricot and plum. To date Ireland has had a Pest Free Area (PFA) for this disease and was seeking Protected Zone (PZ) status. However, surveys carried out by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of Ireland found the disease in a number of nurseries/garden centres and in the wider environment, with many unexplained origins of the findings.

Based on these findings pursuing PZ status for this disease would be contrary to the legal basis for obtaining a PZ. As the findings also present significant difficulties in terms of maintaining a PFA the NPPO of Ireland has decided not to continue with a PFA for *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin *et al.*

From 1 January 2024, Ireland will no longer maintain a PFA for *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin *et al.*

Schedule 7 of the [UK Plant Health Regulation](#) sets down the requirements for the imports of plants for planting of *Prunus L* from third countries. As the Pest Free Area will no longer be an option, from 1 January 2024, for Irish Professional Operators to export *Prunus L*, any Professional Operator wanting to supply *Prunus L* plants to the UK will now have to meet the following requirement:

- an official statement that they have been grown throughout their life in an area established by the NPPO in accordance with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measure 4 (ISPM4) as an area that is free from *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin *et al.*

Northern Ireland (NI) has a Protected Zone for *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin *et al.*, and any Professional Operator wanting to supply *Prunus L* plants to NI will now have to meet the following requirement (point 11 (b) of Annex X of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072):

- an official statement that they have been grown throughout their life in an area free from *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (Smith) Vauterin *et al.*, established by the NPPO

in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

**To meet these requirements Professional Operators supplying *Prunus* plants to GB and NI will have to apply for a Pest Free Place of Production from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).** Establishment of a Pest Free Place of Production on a premises means that regular inspections will take place on the premises. If the disease is found, destruction of all host plants within a 2m radius around the positive plant(s) will take place and quarantine measures will apply. Further movement/trading of any remaining *Prunus* plants to GB and NI will be controlled by suspension of the Phytosanitary Certificate and plant passport, respectively, followed by official inspection over the following 12 months. Reinstatement of the Phytosanitary Certificate and plant passport for export to GB and NI, respectively, is then dependent upon absence of the disease during this period 12 month period.

In this situation, and provided the nursery meets the requirements set down in Annex I (below), Professional Operators will be still be allowed to trade within Ireland and other EU Member States.

In the event that you wish the DAFM to establish a Pest Free Place of Production on your premises, please fill in the form below and return to this office by emailing **plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie**

<b>PHR Number:</b>	
<b>Name (owner of manager):</b>	
<b>Contact Number:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	
<p>There were no findings of <i>Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni</i> (Smith) Vauterin <i>et al.</i>, on my premises over the past 12 months and I request DAFM to establish a Pest Free Place of Production for <i>Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni</i> (Smith) Vauterin <i>et al.</i>, at <b>enter name and address of business.</b></p> <p><b>Signed:</b></p>	

# Annex I

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2019/2072

### ANNEX V

#### Measures to prevent the presence of RNQPs on specific plants for planting

##### PART C

#### Measures to prevent the presence of RNQPs on propagating material of ornamental plants and other plants for planting intended for ornamental purposes

<p><i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> (Smith) Vauterin <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Plants for planting other than seeds <i>Prunus</i> L.</p>	<p>(a) the plants have been produced in an area known to be free from <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> Vauterin <i>et al.</i>; or</p> <p>(b) the plants have grown in a site of production found free from <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> Vauterin <i>et al.</i> over the last complete growing season by visual inspection, and any symptomatic plants in the immediate vicinity, and the neighbouring plants, have been rogued out and destroyed immediately, unless they have been tested on the basis of a representative sample of symptomatic plants and it is shown in those tests that the symptoms are not caused by <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> Vauterin <i>et al.</i>; or</p> <p>(c) no more than 2 % of plants in the lot have shown symptoms during visual inspections at appropriate times during the last growing season, and those symptomatic plants and any symptomatic plants in the site of production and the immediate vicinity, and the neighbouring plants have been rogued out and destroyed immediately unless they are tested, on the basis of a</p>
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		<p>representative sample of symptomatic plants and it is shown in those tests that the symptoms are not caused by <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> Vauterin et al.; or</p> <p>(d) in the case of evergreen species, the plants have been visually inspected, before movement and found free from symptoms of <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> Vauterin et al.</p>
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