

TRADER NOTICE No. 2 of 2017

To: All registered importers of plant and plant produce

Subject: National measures in respect of *Solanum tuberosum* originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where the harmful organism *Epitrix* is known to occur – S.I. No. 80 of 2017.

Please see attached Statutory Instrument (S.I. No. 80 of 2017), which comes into force with immediate effect. Having regard to the Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991, the Minister has introduced new importation requirements in respect of potato tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where the harmful organism *Epitrix* is known to occur. Potato tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* originating in these areas will be subject to protective measures to prevent the introduction and spread of *Epitrix* within Ireland.

There are currently two countries in the EU where *Epitrix* is known to occur: Spain and Portugal. In relation to the imports of potato tubers from outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated areas of Spain and Portugal, your attention in particular is drawn to the following points:

Spain

- **Imports of Potatoes** originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Spain **must be notified** to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in writing at least two days in advance of their arrival in the State. This notification must contain full particulars of each consignment including the proposed point and date of entry and the intended use. These notifications must be e-mailed to plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie
- **Imports of Potatoes** originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Spain **must be washed** so that there is no more than 0.1% of soil present.

A list and map of the *Epitrix* demarcated areas of Spain is attached.

Portugal

- **Imports of Potatoes** originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Portugal **must be notified** to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in writing at least two days in advance of their arrival in the State. This notification must contain full particulars of each consignment including the proposed point and date of entry and the intended use. These notifications must be e-mailed to plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie
- Imports of Potatoes originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Portugal are not required to be washed.

Paragraph 5 of S.I. No. 80 of 2017 details that any tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* landing in the State in contravention of the above points shall be either refused entry into the State or destroyed.

Epitrix (potato flea beetle) is a flea beetle which attack potato plants and tubers, *Solanum tuberosum*, causing significant damage to the tubers and it poses a significant risk to the indigenous potato sector. You will find more information on *Epitrix* in the information note attached.

These national measures are intended to be temporary and this Department will review the decision regularly to reflect decisions made at EU level in relation to the harmful organism and the spread of the pest.

In the event that you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact this office either by emailing plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or alternatively by telephone (01) 505 8885

Oliver McEvoy
Horticulture and Plant Health Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
24th March, 2017



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. 80 of 2017

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACTS 1958 AND 1991 (EPITRIX)
ORDER 2017

S.I. No. 80 of 2017

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACTS 1958 AND 1991 (EPITRIX)
ORDER 2017

I, MICHAEL CREED, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by sections 2 and 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991 (as adapted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011 (S.I. No. 455 of 2011)) hereby order as follows:

1. This Order may be cited as the Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991 (Epiteix) Order 2017.

2. This Order applies to any tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L..

3. For the purposes of this Order-

“Epiteix” means *Epiteix cucumeris* (Harris), *Epiteix papa* sp. n, *Epiteix subcristata* (Lec.), and *Epiteix tuberis* (Gentner);

“demarcated area” means an area established in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2012/270/EU of 16 May 2012¹ as amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/679/EU of 25 September 2014² and Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1359/EU of 8 August 2016³;

“inspector authorised by the Minister” means—

(a) an authorised officer appointed under Regulation 11 of the European Communities (Control of Organisms Harmful to Plants and Plant Products) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 894 of 2004), or

(b) an authorised officer appointed under Regulation 13 of the European Union (Seed Potatoes) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 641 of 2015).

4. (1) A person shall not land into or keep Epiteix in the State unless authorised by the Minister.

(2) A person shall not cause Epiteix to spread in the State.

¹OJ L 132, 23.5.2012, p. 18

²OJ L 283, 27.9.2014, p. 61

³OJ L 215, 10.8.2016, p. 29

*Notice of the making of this Statutory Instrument was published in
“Iris Oifigiúil” of 14th March, 2017.*

(3) A person shall not land tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L. into the State originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a country where Epitrix is known to occur without notifying the Minister in writing at least two days in advance, giving full particulars (including the proposed point and date of entry and the intended use) of each consignment.

(4) A person intending to land tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L. into the State originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where Epitrix is known to occur shall, unless the Minister directs otherwise, wash the tubers so that there is no more than 0.1% of soil present.

(5) A person who lands tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L. in the State in contravention of paragraphs (3) or (4) shall remove or destroy the tubers in accordance with directions of the Minister.

(6) The Minister shall not be liable for the cost of any removal or destruction under paragraph (5).

5. (1) The Minister may give a direction in writing for the removal or destruction of a crop or plant product which is infected with Epitrix or which in the opinion of an inspector authorised by the Minister appears—

(a) to be infected by Epitrix, or

(b) likely to spread Epitrix.

(2) The Minister may by notice, prohibit the keeping, selling or exposing or offering for sale, or the keeping or the distribution in any manner—

(a) a crop or plant product which is infected by Epitrix, or

(b) a crop or plant product which in the opinion of an inspector authorised by the Minister appears to be infected by Epitrix.

(3) A notice issued under paragraph (2) may be issued or published in a manner the Minister considers appropriate.

(4) The Minister may amend withdraw or suspend a notice issued under paragraph (2).

6. An inspector authorised by the Minister may carry out any or all the functions in section 3(2) (c) of the Acts for the purposes of preventing the spread of Epitrix.

4 [80]

7. This Order is in addition to, and not in substitution for, the European Communities (Control of Organisms Harmful to Plants and Plant Products) Regulations 2004 to 2012.



GIVEN under my Official Seal,
9 March 2017.

MICHAEL CREED,
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation)

This Order is made under the Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991 and provides for measures to be put in place to prevent the introduction of *Epitrix*, an organism harmful to tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L into the Country.

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
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Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Iascaigh agus Bia**

Potato Flea Beetle

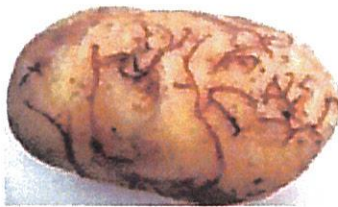
Epitrix spp.

Plant Pest Information Note

What is it?

Epitrix spp. is a biological grouping of flea beetles which are known to feed upon and attack members of the *Solanaceae* family. This grouping includes the following species *Epitrix tuberis*, *Epitrix cucumeris*, *Epitrix similaris* and *Epitrix subcrinita*. All of these four different beetles are known to attack potato plants and tubers, *Solanum tuberosum*. The main reason that these four species are grouped together is because they are very similar. Due to these similarities the exact geographical distribution of *Epitrix spp.* is unknown. It is known that *E. tuberis* has become widespread within Western North

America and *E. similaris* has been found in both Spain and Portugal. The adults are approximately 2mm long and hop like fleas as way of movement (they can also fly). The picture above shows *Epitrix similaris* on the left and *Epitrix cucumeris* on the right.



Why should we be worried about it?

The potato flea beetles are considered by many to be one of the most serious pests threatening the entire EPPO region today. All four species have shown they can exist within different climates, from a Mediterranean climate (Spain) to a temperate climate (USA and Canada). The adults of the potato flea beetles

feed on the leaves of the plants causing serious damage. This reduces the ability of the plant to photosynthesize which in turn affects the size & quality of the tubers and plant health. The adults then lay their eggs in the soil. The larvae then burrow into the tuber and/or the roots and begin to feed. This feeding causes significant damage to the tuber which may become unviable for sale, and the destruction of the roots can result in plant death.



Potatoes showing symptoms of *Epitrix spp.* which had originated in Portugal, were discovered in Ireland in 2010. The picture above left shows the tunnels left by burrowing of the larvae of Potato flea beetle. The picture on the right shows the adult beetles feeding on the leaves of a potato plant; note the feeding holes that look as if they have been shot out.

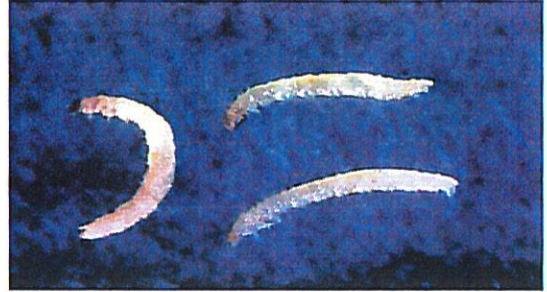
What are its hosts?

The host range of this organism is known to include members of the *Solanaceae* family.

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Solanaceae</i>	Tomato & Potato family

What are its symptoms?

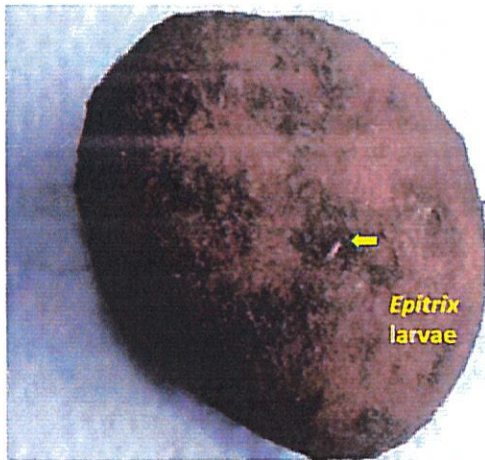
Due to the fact this pest and its larvae are so small it is crucial to keep an eye out for the relative symptoms of the pest. Adults feed on the leaves of the plant and leave holes which look like small shot wounds. The larvae tunnel and burrow into the roots and/or the tubers and leave conspicuous looking trails through them. The picture on the right shows a close up of the larvae of *Epitrix* spp.



How does it spread?

This pest can travel over short distances by flight but the main method of dispersal is the international trade of infested tubers.

Action in the event of suspect cases This pest is under review at EU level and staff of the Horticulture and Plant Health Division are regularly inspecting tubers in dispatch warehouses around the country. If you see suspicious symptoms please contact either your local plant health inspector or the Division Headquarters at the number below.



The picture above shows larvae of *Epitrix* spp. feeding on a potato tuber.

All Photographs are courtesy of EPPO except *Epitrix* larvae courtesy of FERA

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Further information and symptoms on the pests named in this article can be viewed on the website of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) by clicking on the links below.

[Epitrix tuberosa - EPPO - Data Sheet](#)

[Epitrix cucumeris - EPPO - Data Sheet](#)

EPITRIX DEMARCATED AREAS IN SPAIN

(Established according Commission Implementing Decision 2012/270/EU, amended by Decision (EU) 2016/1359.)

AUTONOMOUS REGION	DEMARCATED AREA	Infested zone: Municipality (Province)
ANDALUCÍA	Aznaalcázar I	Aznaalcázar (Sevilla)
	Aznaalcázar II	Aznaalcázar (Sevilla)
	Aznaalcázar III	Aznaalcázar (Sevilla)
	Aznaalcázar/ Villamanrique	Aznaalcázar (Sevilla)
	Villamanrique	Villamanrique de la Condesa (Sevilla)
	Pílas	Pílas (Sevilla)
	Alcalá de Guadaira	Alcalá de Guadaira (Sevilla)
	Coria del Río	Coria del Río (Sevilla)
	Jerez de la Frontera (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz)
	El Granado (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	El Granado (Huelva)
	San Silvestre de Guzmán (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	San Silvestre de Guzmán (Huelva)
	Sanlúcar de Guadiana (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Sanlúcar de Guadiana (Huelva)
	Granada (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Granada (Granada)
	Huétor Tájar (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Huétor Tájar (Granada)
	Córdoba (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Córdoba (Córdoba)
	Coria del Río (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Coria del Río (Sevilla)
Puebla del Río (<i>Epitrix papa</i>)	Puebla del Río (Sevilla)	
ASTURIAS	Carreño	Carreño (Asturias)
	Tapia de Casariego	Tapia de Casariego (Asturias)
	Coaña I	Coaña (Asturias)
	Coaña II	Coaña (Asturias)
	Valdés I	Valdés (Asturias)
	Valdés II	Valdés (Asturias)
	Oviedo	Oviedo (Asturias)
GALICIA	A Coruña	All the municipalities of the province of A Coruña
	Pontevedra	All the municipalities of the province of Pontevedra
	Piñor	Piñor (Orense)
	Cenlle	Cenlle (Orense)
	Santa Cruz de Arrabaldo	Orense (Orense)
	Viveiro I	Viveiro (Lugo)
	Viveiro II	Viveiro (Lugo)
	O Valadouro	O Valadouro (Lugo)
	Barreiros	Barreiros (Lugo)
	Lourenzá	Lourenzá (Lugo)
	Mondoñedo	Mondoñedo (Lugo)

SITUATION OF *Epitrix* sp. IN SPAIN

