

Pest Alert: *Epitrix* potato beetles



Fig. 1 & 2 Symptomatic tubers showing characteristic superficial channels on tuber surface caused by feeding of *Epitrix* larvae © Fera Science Ltd

- *Epitrix* is a very damaging beetle pest of potato from North America that is now established in Spain and Portugal.
- The main **risk of entry** into the UK is via **infested potatoes imported** from Spain and Portugal.
- The first record of *Epitrix* in the UK was in Spring 2015 when symptomatic tubers and dead larvae were intercepted on a consignment of Spanish ware potatoes imported from an area thought to be free of the pest. **It is not currently present in the UK.**

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For **England and Wales**, contact your local **APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector** or the **PHSI Headquarters**, York.

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For **Scotland**, contact the **Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit**:

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For **Northern Ireland**, contact the **DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch**:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>