

Pest Alert: Grape phylloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*)



Fig 1. Grape phylloxera adults and root nodule. © Crown copyright



Fig 2. Grape phylloxera galls on the underside of *Vitis* root stock leaf. © Fera



Fig 3. Open galls of grape phylloxera on the upper side of *Vitis* root stock leaf. © Fera

- **Grape phylloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*)**, is a hemipteran insect **pest of grapevines in Europe**. Native to North America, it was introduced to Europe in the mid-19th century. It has **continued to spread throughout wine producing parts of the world through the 20th century**.
- Grape phylloxera is now present over much of the globe. It is **found across Europe, North America, the Mediterranean, New Zealand, Australia, and parts of South and Central America**.
- When it was first introduced it had a devastating impact on grapevines. When introduced to France in the 1800's it was responsible for the loss of 1 000 000 ha of vineyard. Currently, grapevines in Europe are largely grafted onto American rootstock, which are more tolerant to the pest.
- **Grape phylloxera has a highly complex and flexible lifecycle with both sexual and asexual forms**, forming both nodule-like galls on the roots (Fig. 1) and conspicuous galls about the size of half a pea (Fig. 2) on the underside of the leaf surface. Galls are open on the upper side of the leaf (Fig. 3).
- Previously grape phylloxera has only been found in some vineyards in southern England; with only the root galls being found. However **recently the leaf galls have been found on suckers arising from root stocks of UK plants, it is thought that warmer summer temperatures have created more favourable conditions for this pest in the UK**. The winged adults are poor flyers so the most likely pathway for this pest would be via the movement of infected root stocks with unseen eggs or vines for planting.

If you suspect the presence of the pest on your *Vitis* plants 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, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

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

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit or RPID officer:

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 DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

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