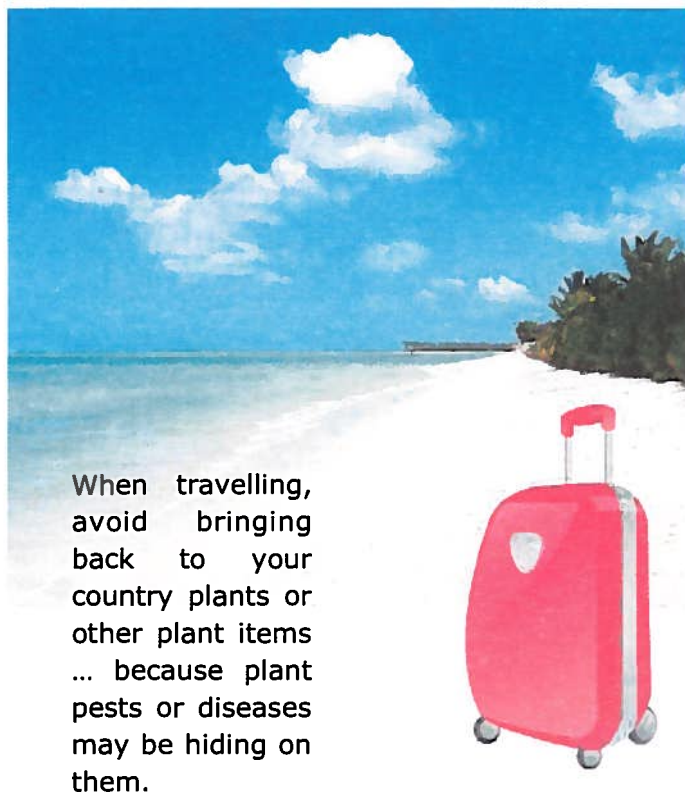


## How you can help

- Never bring home plants, seeds, flowers, fruit and vegetables illegally.
- If you do wish to import plants into the country, contact the Plant Health Directorate to find out what you can do legally.
- If you are carrying any plants, seeds, flowers, fruit and vegetables, declare them to the Customs official.

### PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Plant Biotechnology Centre  
Annibale Preca Str, Lija LJA 1915, Malta  
Tel: +356 2292 7100 Fax: +356 21414493  
Freephone: 8007 2310  
[www.planthealth.gov.mt](http://www.planthealth.gov.mt) [www.msdec.gov.mt](http://www.msdec.gov.mt)  
[plant.health@gov.mt](mailto:plant.health@gov.mt)



When travelling, avoid bringing back to your country plants or other plant items ... because plant pests or diseases may be hiding on them.



**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS**

In collaboration with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP/EPPO - [www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int))  
Information valid up to August 2014

# DON'T RISK IT!



## Pests and diseases can hide on plants.

## Please do not bring plants, seeds, fruit, vegetables or flowers home.



Qan il-poster tien qggarat mal-European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP/EPPO - [www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int)) bi-kollaborazzjoni ta' Dr David Stawson (Fera, GB) - Design Armelle Roy (FR)



## Help us to protect our crops and beautiful countryside against plant pests and diseases

## Plants can get sick too!

Just like humans and animals, plants can get sick too. They can suffer from diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and be attacked by pests, big and small, such as insects or nematodes.

Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of new pests and diseases being introduced into areas which were previously free of them. Many of these recent introductions can be related to the rapidly increasing levels of international trade and travel.

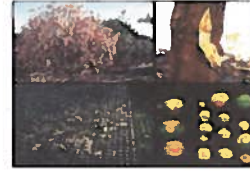
### Introduction of new plant pests and diseases can threaten both the economy and biodiversity

Pests and diseases can hitch a ride on plants, seeds, flowers, fruit and vegetables, even if they look healthy, and on soil clinging to roots. In this way, when we move plants between different parts of the world, we can inadvertently introduce new pests and diseases into our countries. Once introduced into a new environment, some of these alien pests and diseases can cause severe economic losses to agriculture and forestry, and threaten biodiversity. In our country, we experienced the introduction of the Red Palm Weevil which affected many palm trees and also the introduction of the Citrus Tristeza Virus which infected many citrus trees.

### National and international rules are in place

Plant health laws are in place to protect agriculture, forestry and the environment. Therefore, many plants and plant products (e.g. seeds, vegetables, cut flowers) are not allowed to be transported without official authorization. If you intend to transport plants, make sure that you are not infringing these laws by contacting your national plant health authorities beforehand.

## Some dangerous 'travellers'



Citrus Tristeza Virus... can destroy our citrus cultivation

Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Citrus longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*)...can kill our valuable trees such as citrus, mulberry and oak

Source: <http://www.europe-allens.org/>



Colorado Potato Beetle... can destroy our potato crops.

Source: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/>



Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*)... can destroy our pine trees

Source: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>

## Protect plants

The objectives of this leaflet are to:

- Raise awareness among international travellers about the risks of moving plants;
- Encourage everyone to do their bit to stop the spread of new pests and diseases;
- Provide some background explanations to the 'Don't risk it' poster that was published simultaneously with this leaflet.



By refraining from transporting plants, seeds, fruit, vegetables and flowers during your international travels, you help us to protect our crops and beautiful countryside against dangerous plants pests and diseases. You can also help by spreading this message to your family and friends.



Source: [www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int)