

Pest Alert: *Epitrix* potato beetles

- *Epitrix* is a very damaging pest of potato from North America that is now established in Spain and Portugal.
- The main risk of entry into the UK is via potatoes imported from these countries.
- Symptomatic tubers and dead larvae were intercepted on consignments of Spanish ware potatoes imported from an area thought to be free of the pest, in Spring 2015. These are the first records of *Epitrix* in the UK. Feeding damage left by larvae on the surface of potatoes is shown below (photos courtesy of Fera Science Limited).



If you see any suspicious symptoms on tubers, please inform the relevant authority.

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 01904 405138

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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

For Scotland, contact your local RPID officer:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

Email: hort.marketing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.scot/PotatoHealthControls

For Northern Ireland, contact the DARD Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@dardni.gov.uk

Web: www.dardni.gov.uk