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PEST REPORT - THE NETHERLANDS

First finding of *Chalara fraxinea* on *Fraxinus* sp. in The Netherlands

Introduction

This report concerns the first official finding of *Chalara fraxinea* in *Fraxinus* sp in the Netherlands, in the north-eastern part of the country in a public green area. *Fraxinus* is a common tree in coastal areas of the Netherlands. There are no forest areas in the vicinity of the finding. The origin of the infection is unknown, but the organism may have been introduced by natural spread. This organism is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC, but is listed on the EPPO Alert List.

Geographical distribution in Europe:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Switzerland.

Pest status in the Netherlands: Present, only in some areas

Host plant range: *Fraxinus* spp

Detection/Identification

The infected trees were detected as a result of a survey on *Fraxinus* spp trees. Most symptoms were found on seedlings under the trees. Identification was done by isolation of the fungus on agar media, the diagnosis was confirmed by R. Loos, LNPV, Malzéville, France with *in planta* realtime PCR.

Pest significance

Ash dieback, caused by *Chalara fraxinea* has increasingly been observed in European countries on ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the last ten years. Because ash dieback may represent a serious threat to forest and nursery ash trees, *C. fraxinea* has been added to the EPPO Alert List.

Origin of the finding

The origin of the finding is unknown. The ash trees were planted in 1975 but the origin of the plants is not known. Since the organism is present in many countries, natural spread may have caused introduction of the disease in The Netherlands.

Phytosanitary measures

Since 2008 specific surveillance of *Fraxinus* sp. is conducted in the Netherlands *inter alia* for monitoring findings of *Chalara fraxinea*. An additional survey will be conducted to determine the distribution of the disease in the area. In view of the wider distribution of the organism on the mainland of Europe, no measures have been taken for the infected trees. Owners of the trees and the tree nursery industry has been informed on the occurrence of this new pest.

References:

- NPPO The Netherlands
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