

### Mini data sheet on *Valsa ceratosperma*

Added in 2004 - Deleted in 2008

**Reasons for deletion:**

*Valsa ceratosperma* is widespread in the EPPO region. In 2008, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

*Valsa ceratosperma* (a new canker disease of pear)

Why	The presence of a new canker disease of pear caused by <i>Valsa ceratosperma</i> was reported by Italy, and the EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Measures considered that this fungus should be added to the EPPO Alert List.
Where	<b>EPPO region:</b> Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Lombardia). In Italy containment measures are taken to prevent any further spread. <b>Asia:</b> China, Japan and Korea
Note:	The IMI description of <i>V. ceratosperma</i> (no. 1366, 1998) gives a much broader distribution. However, the disease it causes on pear, apple and quince has only been observed in the Asian countries mentioned above and now in Italy.
On which plants	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i> , <i>Malus domestica</i> , <i>Pyrus communis</i> . In Asia, <i>Valsa</i> canker is mainly reported on apple, and occasionally on pear and quince. In Italy, it was only found on pear. (cv. Abate Fétel was the most affected, but other cultivars (i.e. William, Decana, Kaiser, Passecrassane, Morettini, General Leclerc) were also found susceptible).
Damage	The fungus causes elongated cankers on twigs, branches and trunks. Symptoms can easily be confused with other pathogens such as: <i>Nectria galligena</i> , <i>Sphaeropsis malorum</i> , <i>Phomopsis mali</i> and <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> . When cankers develop, they can girdle twigs, branches and even trunks, which then lead to desiccation and death of the distal part. <i>V. ceratosperma</i> overwinters in infected wood and plant debris, and most new lesions appear in spring. The affected bark is swollen, water-soaked, and in February small dark pycnidia can be observed. In spring, under humid conditions, pycnidia release spores which are responsible for new infection. The fungus penetrates through natural bark crevices and wounds (due to adverse climatic conditions or pruning). Ascospores are also formed in autumn/winter but it seems that they only play a secondary role in disease spread. In the literature, it is mentioned that on apple, the disease may remain latent for 1 to 3 years.
Dissemination	Within orchards, disease spread is ensured by the production of pycnidiospores in spring and to a lesser extent by ascospores in autumn/winter. Over long distances, trade of plants and eventually of wood can ensure dispersal of <i>V. ceratosperma</i> .
Pathway	Plants for planting, wood of <i>Cydonia</i> , <i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> from countries where <i>V. ceratosperma</i> occurs.
Possible risks	Fruit crops such as pear, apple and quince are important for the EPPO region. Control of canker diseases is usually difficult in practice. Mechanical removal of cankers is a possibility. Data is currently lacking on chemical products which may be effective against <i>V. ceratosperma</i> . In Italy, high incidence in affected orchards and crop losses are already observed. Therefore, any further spread of this disease should be avoided.
Source(s)	Agricoltura, February 2003. Il "cancro da Valsa", nuova malattia del pero. Carla Montuschi, Servizio Fitosanitario, Regione Emilia-Romagna <a href="http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agricoltura/rivista/2003/02/ra030266.pdf">http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agricoltura/rivista/2003/02/ra030266.pdf</a> Servizio Fitosanitario Emilia-Romagna Servizio Fitosanitario della Regione Lombardia, IT, 2004-10. Un nuovo agente di cancri rameali su pero Il "Cancro da Valsa", malattia accertata per la prima volta nella nostra regione nel 2001, è in corso di studio da parte del Servizio fitosanitario regionale. di Carla Montuschi, Servizio Fitosanitario, Regione Emilia-Romagna <a href="http://www.agrimodena.it/pere/cancrodavalsa.html">http://www.agrimodena.it/pere/cancrodavalsa.html</a> Cancro da Valsa - <i>Valsa ceratosperma</i> (Tode: Fr.) Maire (f. con. <i>Cytospora vitis</i> Mont.). <a href="http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/fitosanitar/aversita/primo_piano/valsa/valsa.htm">http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/fitosanitar/aversita/primo_piano/valsa/valsa.htm</a>

IMI (1998) Descriptions of fungi and bacteria no.1366. *Valsa ceratosperma*. CABI, Wallingford, UK.  
NPPO of Italy, 2004-03.

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