

This short description was prepared in the framework of the EU FP7 project DROPSA - Strategies to develop effective, innovative and practical approaches to protect major European fruit crops from pests and pathogens (grant agreement no. 613678). This pest was listed in the DROPSA alert list for apple fruit.

***Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens* (Ascomycota)**

Fruit pathway: infects stem, calyx and lenticels of apple fruit (Xiao *et al.* 2014). Infected fruit may be symptomless.

Other pathways: plants for planting; pycnidia of *S. pyriputrescens* were also observed on diseased twigs and bark (Xiao *et al.* 2014)

Hosts: *Malus*, *Pyrus* (Xiao *et al.* 2014)

Distribution: North America: USA (Kim *et al.* 2014), Canada (Sholberg *et al.* 2009)

Damage: *S. pyriputrescens* was first recognized as a post-harvest rot of apple in Washington, USA (Kim and Xiao 2008). It has since been found in British Columbia and New York State. In Washington, it caused up to 17% of total decay in stored apples (Oregon State University 2015), while the severe rot is of low incidence (to date) in New York (Kim *et al.* 2014); *S. pyriputrescens* is also the cause of a twig dieback and canker disease of apple (Xiao *et al.* 2014).

Other information: Recently described species. Infection of apple fruit by the fungus is believed to occur in the orchard, and symptoms develop during storage (Xiao *et al.* 2014). Uncertain if records in Eastern USA represent spread of the pest and if this is an emerging disease.

Impact: Moderate	Intercepted: Not known	Spreading/invasive: Yes (uncertain)
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References:

- Kim YK, Curry EA, Xiao CL 2014. Infection of apple fruit by *Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens* in the orchard in relation to Sphaeropsis rot in storage. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* 140(1): 133-143.
- Kim YK, Xiao CL 2008. Distribution and incidence of Sphaeropsis rot in apple in Washington State. *Plant disease*, 92(6), 940-946.
- Oregon State University 2015. Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook: Apple (*Malus* spp.)-Storage Problems. URL <http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/apple-malus-spp-storage-problems> (accessed 01 December 2015)
- Sholberg PL, Stokes SC, O'Gorman DT 2009. First report of a new postharvest disease of pear fruit caused by *Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens* in Canada. *Plant Disease* 93(8): 843-843.
- Xiao CL, Kim YK, Boal RJ 2014. Sources and availability of inoculum and seasonal survival of *Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens* in apple orchards. *Plant Disease* 98(8): 1043-1049.