

Mini data sheet on *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *fragariae*

Added in 2002 - Deleted in 2007

**Reasons for deletion:**

The pest *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *fragariae* has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2007, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *fragariae* (bacterial leaf blight - a new disease of strawberry)

Why	A new bacterial disease of strawberry (distinct from <i>Xanthomonas fragariae</i> ) called bacterial leaf blight has recently been reported from Italy (Emilia-Romagna) in experimental and commercial fields. Although more data is needed on this new bacterium and in particular on the severity of the disease it causes, the EPPO Secretariat decided to add it on the Alert List.
Where	Italy (Emilia-Romagna), probably also present in France but to be confirmed.
On which plants	Strawberry ( <i>Fragaria ananassa</i> ). Infections could be obtained by artificial inoculations to <i>Begonia natalensis</i> , <i>Ficus elastica</i> and <i>Philodendron scandens</i> .
Damage	Leaf lesions (small reddish brown on lower leaf surface and reddish spots on the upper leaf surface) which never appear water-soaked or translucent. Lesions when enlarging become surrounded by a chlorotic halo. Final stage of the disease is a complete yellowing and whitening of the leaf. No symptoms are observed on flowers, peduncles or fruits. Symptoms of leaf blight mainly occur in field grown-strawberries during autumn where air humidity is high. No data is yet available on crop damage or losses caused by the bacterium in areas where it is present.
Dissemination	No data for the moment.
Pathway	Plants for planting of strawberry from areas where the disease occur.
Possible risks	Strawberry is an important crop for the EPPO region. Bacterial diseases are difficult to control in practice. Although more data is needed on the geographical distribution, host range, biology, epidemiology, economic damage of the bacterium, the spread of a new bacterial disease could represent a threat to strawberry cultivation in Europe.
Source(s)	Janse, J.D.; Rossi, M.P.; Gorkink, R.F.J.; Derks, J.H.J.; Swings, J.; Janssens, D.; Scortichini, M. (2001) Bacterial leaf blight of strawberry ( <i>Fragaria</i> (x) <i>ananassa</i> ) caused by a pathovar of <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> , not similar to <i>Xanthomonas fragariae</i> Kennedy & King. Description of the causal organism as <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>fragariae</i> (p. no., comb. nov.). Plant Pathology, 50(6), 653-665. Scortichini, M.; Rossi, M.P. (2003) Genetic diversity of <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>fragariae</i> strains and comparison with some other <i>X. arboricola</i> pathovars using repetitive PCR genomic fingerprinting. Journal of Phytopathology, 151(3), 113-119.

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