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ORGANIZATION

# EPPO Reporting Service

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**2026/136    New data on quarantine pests and pests of the EPPO Alert List**

By searching through the literature, the EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following new data concerning quarantine pests and pests included (or formerly included) on the EPPO Alert List, and indicated in bold the situation of the pest concerned using the terms of ISPM 8.

- **New records**

*Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Colombia. It was detected in several areas in the departments of Antioquia, Santander and Boyacá, only on strawberry. Official surveys are conducted to assess the distribution of the pest in the country (IPPC, 2026).

The pest status of *Drosophila suzukii* in Colombia is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Squash vein yellowing virus (*Ipomovirus cucurbitavenaflavi*, SqVYV - EU Quarantine Pest 2019/2072 Annex II A) is first reported from India. It was detected in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) on symptomatic bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) during the 2022 and 2023 growing seasons. The pathogen was initially identified using high-throughput sequencing (HTS) and this was validated by RT-PCR testing. This is the first finding of SqVYV in India and the first record of *L. siceraria* as a host (Krishnan *et al.*, 2026). **Present, restricted distribution.**

Tomato spotted wilt virus (*Orthotospovirus tomatomaculae*, TSWV - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Mali. It was detected on symptomatic peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) plants at the Sotuba Research Station, Bamako Capital District in the 2024 growing season (Bagayoko *et al.*, 2026). The pest was identified by molecular testing. **Present, restricted distribution.**

*Meloidogyne enterolobii* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Sri Lanka. It was detected on guava (*Psidium guajava*), capsicum (*Capsicum* spp.) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) plants in the North Western, Central and Western provinces. The pest was identified by molecular testing (Rajapakse *et al.*, 2026). **Present, widely distributed.**

- **Detailed records**

In Indonesia, citrus tristeza virus (*Closterovirus tristeza* -CTV - EPPO A2 List) occurs in Bali province (Nusa Tenggara) (Nurulita *et al.*, 2026).

In Canada, the potato cyst nematode *Globodera rostochiensis* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Manitoba. It was detected in a single field (72 hectares) on a farm in south-western Manitoba. Official measures are applied (IPPC, 2026)

The pest status of *Globodera rostochiensis* in Canada is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

In Brazil, huanglongbing was first reported from Rio Grande do Sul in early June 2026 in a family orchard in the municipality of Palmitinho, in the Médio Alto Uruguai region, near the border with Santa Catarina as part of the official surveys. Official measures have been applied and the outbreak was declared eradicated on June 11th. (Governo do estado Rio Grande do Sul, 2026-06-09 and 2026-06-11). The introduction was likely linked to illegal movement of infested seedlings. The press release does not mention the *Liberibacter* species that was identified. Both ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter americanus*’ (EPPO A1 List) and

'*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*' (EPPO A1 List) occur in Santa Catarina state. Further surveys will be conducted in a radius of 2.4 km around the outbreak. **Eradicated in Rio Grande do Sul.**

In Ghana, *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae - EPPO A1 List) was first reported in 2022 from the Volta region on *Murraya paniculata* plants grown for ornamental purposes (EPPO RS 2023/161). Ninsin et al. (2025) report the presence of *D. citri* in Volta, Eastern, and Greater Accra regions on orange (*Citrus x aurantium* var. *sinensis*) and lemon (*C. x limon*).

In India, *Liriomyza trifolii* (Diptera: Agromyzidae - EPPO A2 List) is causing damage on bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) in Rajasthan (Kumawat et al., 2026).

In Taiwan the causal agent of laurel wilt -*Harringtonia lauricola* (EPPO Alert List) -and its principal vector, *Xyleborus glabratus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae - EPPO Alert List), are known to occur naturally. However, the disease itself (laurel wilt) had not been previously documented in the country. In 2025, surveys were conducted in commercial orchards of avocado (*Persea americana*) presenting symptomatic trees. Morphological and molecular tests confirmed the occurrence of laurel wilt (Gazis et al., 2026).

In Belgium, only 29 specimens of *Monochamus galloprovincialis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae - vector of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) have been trapped in Belgium in the period 2013-2022, with 45-95 traps deployed yearly. Based on these data and a species distribution model Grégoire et al. (2026) concluded that the likelihood that *Monochamus galloprovincialis* is established in Belgium is low. Based on genotyping they concluded that at least some of the beetles caught in Belgium originated from other countries.

In China, the following viruses were reported on symptomatic tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) for the first time in Xinjiang province: tomato spotted wilt virus (*Orthospovirus tomatomaculae*, TSWV - EPPO A2 List), tomato mottle mosaic virus (*Tobamovirus maculatessellati*, ToMMV - formerly EPPO Alert List), tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV - EPPO A2 List), tomato ringspot nepovirus (*Nepovirus lycopersici*, ToRSV - EPPO A2 List), tomato black ring virus (*Nepovirus nigranuli*, TBRV - EU RNQP) and tomato chlorosis virus (*Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*, ToCV - EPPO A2 List). The pathogens were identified by molecular testing (Cao et al., 2026).

- **New host plants**

The root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne vitis* (Nematoda: Meloidogynidae) was recently described from China (Yunnan province) on grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*) (EPPO RS 2021/027). Yang et al. (2026) have identified a new host plant: *M. vitis* was identified as damaging *Morus alba* trees in Yunnan province.

Clary sage (*Salvia sclarea*) is first recorded as a host plant of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae - EPPO A2 List) from field experiments in March to May 2025 in Uttar Pradesh, India (Singh et al., 2026).

In Yunnan Province (China), tomato zonate spot virus (*Orthospovirus tomatozonae*, TZSV) was reported on symptomatic kiwifruit (*Actinidia chinensis*). The virus was identified by molecular testing, however TZSV was only found in one symptomatic sample so further pathogenicity tests are needed (Yin et al., 2026).

In Virginia (USA), in September 2025, *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (EPPO A2 List) was found infecting poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) plants showing leaf scorch symptoms at

the edge of a vineyard containing plants known to be infected by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*. The pest was identified by molecular testing (Yang *et al.*, 2026).

In Peru, *Euplatypus parallelus* (Coleoptera: Platypodinae - formerly EPPO Alert List) and *Coptoborus ricini* (Coleoptera: Scolytinae) were reported to cause mortality to young cacao trees (*Theobroma cacao*). The pests were identified by morphological and molecular testing (Rojas-Vargas *et al.*, 2026).

- Sources:** Bagayoko I, Berete B, Tiendrebeogo A (2026) First report of tomato spotted wilt virus infecting peanut and tomato in Mali: molecular evidence and pathogenicity. *Journal of Advances in Microbiology* **26**(5), 182-190.
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-Press release. (2026-06-09) Doença que afeta citros, greening é confirmada em plantas no Rio Grande do Sul. <https://estado.rs.gov.br/doenca-que-afeta-citros-greening-e-confirmada-em-plantas-no-rio-grande-do-sul>  
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- IPPC website. Official Pest Reports - Canada (2026-06-17): Confirmation of golden nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) in the province of Manitoba / Confirmation du nématode doré (*Globodera rostochiensis*) dans la province du Manitoba. <https://www.ippc.int/fr/countries/canada/pestreports/2026/06/confirmation-of-golden-nematode-globodera-rostochiensis-in-the-province-of-manitoba-confirmation-du-nematode-dore-globodera-rostochiensis-dans-la-province-du-manitoba/>
- IPPC website. Official Pest Reports - Colombia (2026-05-29): Reporte de plagas. *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura. <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/venezuela-bolivarian-republic-of/pestreports/2023/01/phytosanitary-emergency-for-presence-of-foc-r4t/>
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<https://doi.org/10.65521/jer.v50.i2.2026.72>

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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-026-08819-w> .

Yang J, Lorv JS, Bragard C, Vinatzer B (2026) First report of leaf scorch of Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) caused by *Xylella fastidiosa* in Virginia. *Plant Disease* (early view) <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-05-26-0895-PDN>

Yin Y, Chen X, Li L, Dong R, Lin T, Ding M, Li T (2026) First report of tomato zonate spot virus infecting *Actinidia chinensis* Planch. in China. *Plant Disease* (early view)  
<https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-02-26-0366-PDN>

**Additional key words:** new record, detailed record, new host plants

**Computer codes:** COPBRI, CTV000, DIAACI, DROSSU, HELIAR, HETDRO, LIBEAS, LIRITR, MELGMY, MELGVI, MONCGA, PLTPPA, RAFFLA, SQVYVX, TBRV00, TOBRFV, TOCV00, TOMMV0, TORSV0, TSWV00, TZSV00, XYLBGR, XYLEFA BE, BR, CA, CN, CN, CO, GH, ID, IN, IN, LK, ML, TW, US

**2026/137 First report of *Agrilus planipennis* in Hungary**

The NPPO of Hungary recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of the emerald ash borer *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae - EPPO A2 List) on its territory. This is the first report of this pest in the European Union. In the EPPO region, *A. planipennis* was first reported in the European part of the Russian Federation in 2007 (EPPO RS 2007/067), in Ukraine in 2019 (RS 2019/202), and in Belarus in 2025 (RS 2025/208).

In Hungary, one specimen was caught in a pheromone trap operated by the Sopron University - Forest Research Institute (ERTI) in Beregsurány (region of Észak-Alföld, eastern Hungary) on 2026-06-09. The identification of the pest was carried out using a molecular (PCR-based) test by the National Reference Laboratory.

Surveillance was intensified in the affected area, including the deployment of supplementary traps and targeted surveys of host plants (*Fraxinus* spp.). Preliminary field observations on ash trees in the vicinity of the trap detected symptoms consistent with infestation by *A. planipennis*. Further delimitation surveys are conducted. A demarcated area has been established around the detection site and extends to the border with Ukraine, with part of the buffer and survey zone reaching into adjacent Ukrainian territory. Coordination is being implemented with the Ukrainian NPPO. The national contingency plan for *A. planipennis* implemented is being in Hungary.

The pest status of *Agrilus planipennis* in Hungary is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

**Source:** NPPO of Hungary (2026-06).

**Pictures** *Agrilus planipennis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLPL/photos>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** AGRLPL, HU

**Source:** NPPO of Hungary (2026-06).

**Pictures** *Agrilus planipennis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLPL/photos>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** AGRLPL, HU

**2026/138 First report of *Aceria litchii* in Israel**

The NPPO of Israel recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of the lychee erinose mite *Aceria litchii* (Acari: Eriophyidae) on its territory. It is a quarantine pest for Israel.

During the spring of 2025, suspicious symptoms were found on trees of *Litchi chinensis* in a commercial orchard in one small area close to the border with Lebanon. Infested plant material was sampled and the pest was identified by the official laboratory as *Aceria litchii*, by morphological and molecular tests. This is the first finding of this pest in Israel. The entry pathway is unknown, though illicit import of prohibited propagation material is suspected. A country-wide survey has been conducted, and has confirmed the mite's restricted distribution to commercial lychee plots within a limited area close to the Lebanese border. In parallel, eradication measures are being applied in the outbreak area. Infested trees are

pruned to remove all leaves and sprayed with sulphur. Infested cut branches and twigs are destroyed.

The pest status of *Aceria litchii* in Israel is officially declared as: **Present, restricted distribution and under eradication.**

*Aceria litchii* is one of the most important pests of lychee. It is native to Asia and has been reported in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, China, Taiwan as well as in Hawaii and Australia. In 2010, it was first reported in Brazil where it has spread to all major lychee-producing areas. In 2018, it was first found in Florida (USA), where it is under eradication. Giordano *et al.* (2024) reported its first occurrence in the EPPO region, in Italy. *A. litchii* was identified in a field of symptomatic litchi trees in the northern part of Sicily in autumn 2023. Similar symptoms at a lower intensity had been observed in that field on lychee leaves during the decade prior to this, but had not previously been considered as a phytosanitary problem.

**Source:** NPPO of Israel (2026-06).

Giordano T, Lamendola M, Mezzano M, Scuderi D, Gugliuzza G, Tsolakis H (2024) Invasion of the erinose mite *Aceria litchii* (Eriophyoidea, Eriophyidae) in Europe. *International Journal of Acarology* 50(4), 392-394.

Revynti AM, Crane JH, Wasielewski J, Kendra PE, Carillo D (2021) The Lychee Erinose Mite (Keifer) (Acari: Eriophyidae). ENY2073, Entomology and Nematology Department, UF/IFAS Extension. <https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-IN1347-2022>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** ERPHLI, IL, IT

## **2026/139 First report of *Cryphalus morivorus* in Slovakia and the EPPO region**

*Cryphalus morivorus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae, EU quarantine pest as ‘non-European Scolytinae’) is reported for the first time in the EPPO region. *C. morivorus* was described from China and is primarily associated with mulberry trees (*Morus alba* and *M. australis*). It is present in China, Taiwan, and the Republic of Korea.

The species was detected during field sampling in May 2025 at Piešťany (Trnava Region, western Slovakia). Adult beetles were collected directly from infested twigs of white mulberry (*M. alba*) showing symptoms of twig dieback. In addition, preserved herbarium material (*Morus* twigs) collected between 2016 and 2024 in 34 localities was examined and this showed that the pest was already present in the country in 2022. In total, *C. morivorus* was detected in four locations (Bratislava, Devín, Lučenec and Piešťany) located in the western and southern parts of the country.

The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular tests. The authors note that *C. morivorus* currently appears restricted to thin mulberry twigs and has not yet been linked to pathogenic fungi under European conditions.

The NPPO of Slovakia recently conducted official monitoring. In April 2026, *C. morivorus* was detected in branches of *Morus* sp. collected in a public green space in Devín (in Bratislava municipality). The identity of the pest was confirmed by the EU Reference Laboratory for Insects and Mites.

The pest status of *Cryphalus morivorus* in Slovakia is officially declared as: **Transient.**

**Source:** NPPO of Slovakia (2026-06).

Pastirčák M, Barta M, Vakula J, Knížek M, Pastirčáková K (2026) First European record of the East Asian bark beetle *Cryphalus morivorus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) on white mulberry (*Morus alba*), with evidence of establishment in Slovakia. *Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research* 99(3), cpag037. <https://doi.org/10.1093/forestry/cpag037>

**Pictures** Photos were kindly provided by the authors and uploaded in EPPO Global Database *Cryphalus morivorus*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CRYHMO/photos>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** CRYHMO, SK

### **2026/140 First report of *Baliothrips sunae* in the Netherlands**

The NPPO of the Netherlands recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Baliothrips sunae* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) on its territory.

During April and May 2026, the presence of a thrips species new to Europe, identified as *Baliothrips sunae*, was recorded on ornamental plants for planting of *Carex*, at four locations in the Netherlands. The pest was first detected during export inspections and several life stages were found: larvae, pupae and adults. For one of these findings the plants originated in another EU Member State.

No significant damage was recorded on the plants, except in one occasion where some leaf damage was observed but several other thrips species were also detected on these plants.

Very limited information is available on *B. sunae* apart from the original description of the species in China (Zhang *et al.*, 2018). The species was described from ‘grasses’ in Zhejiang. Therefore, no preliminary risk assessment was carried out by the NPPO. No official measures have been taken.

The pest status finding of *Baliothrips sunae* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present, few occurrences on plants for planting of *Carex*.**

**Source:** NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-06). <https://english.nvwa.nl/documents/plant-health/pest-reporting/documents/pest-report-baliothrips-sunae-on-plants-for-planting-of-carex-in-the-netherlands>

Zhang S, Wang Z, Yajin Li & Mound L (2018) One new species, two generic synonyms and eight new records of Thripidae from China (Thysanoptera). *Zootaxa* 4418 (4), 370-378. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4418.4.3>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** BALOSU, NL

### **2026/141 Incursion of *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg, 1783) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Italy**

The yellow-spotted stink bug, *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), is a highly polyphagous stink bug native to Asia. It can contaminate commodities in trade, similar to *Halyomorpha halys*. In the EPPO region, it was first recorded from Albania (EPPO RS 2020/170, RS 2021/133) and a few specimens were also found near a port in Greece (RS 2025/001). Outside of Asia, it was detected in the State of Sao Paulo in Brazil and intercepted in New Zealand.

A recent scientific article documents the first finding of this pest in Italy, based on an adult female collected on a parked vehicle in an urban area of Montegrotto Terme (Padua

province, Veneto) in early April 2026. The pest was identified by morphological examination. The authors consider that early spring collection aligns with typical post-overwintering emergence. Immediate targeted field surveys were conducted in the vicinity (500 m radius) with the help of a regional phytosanitary inspector and did not detect any additional specimens.

There is no indication that *E. fullo* is established in Italy.

An updated distribution map is available in EPPO Global Database: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ERTNFU/distribution>

**Source:** Scaccini D, Moretto E, Dioli P, Pozzebon A (2026) First record of *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg, 1783) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Italy. *EPPO Bulletin* (early view). <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.70077>

**Additional key words:** new record, incursion

**Computer codes:** ERTNFU, IT

## **2026/142 New pests reports in the Southern USA**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has recently issued several pest alerts

*Heliococcus summervillei* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) has recently been reported from the USA. This mealybug is a pest of pasture, turf grass and sugarcane. It was first described in Australia, but its native area is unclear (maybe Pakistan). This pest has recently been introduced in the western hemisphere: in 2019 and 2020 in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico and Barbados), and in Mexico in July 2025. In October 2025, *H. summervillei* was first reported in the continental USA causing pasture dieback in Texas. It then spread through Texas and was recorded in Louisiana on sugarcane, and in May 2026, in Florida in fields of limpgrass (*Hemarthria altissima*).

*Pseudaulacaspis rubra* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae): this armoured scale insect of Asian origin, was previously recorded only from India and Sri Lanka. It was detected in 2025 on mature mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) in Florida. This is the first time that this species is reported in the western hemisphere.

In Texas, a task force was set up in 2025 to mitigate major outbreaks of the rice delphacid, *Tagosodes orizicola* (Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha) on rice. The rice hoja blanca virus (*Tenuivirus oryzae*, RHBV), which is transmitted by *T. orizicola*, was first detected in the state in 2024.

The following interceptions or incursions were also reported from Florida in 2025:

- *Bactericera cockerelli* (Hemiptera: Triozidae - EPPO A1 List): intercepted in imported consignments or found at vegetable wholesalers on tomatillo (*Physalis philadelphica*) and pepper (*Capsicum annuum*).
- *Bactrocera carambolae* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EPPO A1 List): a single male specimen was captured in a trap in 2025 in Florida. Intensive monitoring did not detect further specimens; official measures were lifted in July 2025.
- *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EPPO A1 List) A single male specimen was captured in a trap in 2025 in Florida. Intensive monitoring did not detect further specimens; official measures lifted in July 2025.

- Source:** Halbert SE (2025) Entomology Section. P.J. Anderson and G.S. Hodges (Editors). TRI-  
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**Additional key words:** incursion, new records

**Computer codes** BTRCB, DACUDO, HELCSU, PARZCO, RHBV00, SOGAOR, US

**2026/143 *Prionus imbricornis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), an emerging pest of highbush blueberries in the USA**

*Prionus imbricornis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), is a species native to the USA, present across the eastern USA, found from New York to Florida and as far west as Kansas and Texas. Larvae bore into and feed on the bark and base of the stems of their host tree before boring down and hollowing out the roots. Confirmed hosts of *P. imbricornis* include oaks (*Quercus* spp.), American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), and apple trees (*Malus* spp.)

*P. imbricornis* has been identified as an emerging pest of blueberries in North Carolina since 2010. This is the first report of *Vaccinium* as a host. The larvae were found feeding in commercial crops of highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). Symptoms of infestation include branch dieback observed in early spring, foliar wilting and weakened root systems. It is difficult to detect infestations early as larvae are found within the plants. The infested area in North Carolina has extended over the last 15 years. Infestations are mainly recorded on mature plants (10 to 14-year-old blueberry bushes and a few 5-year-old bushes). It is not mentioned in the article whether young plants for planting could be a pathway for further spread.

- Source:** Geisert KA, Powell GS, Lopez L (2026) *Prionus imbricornis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), an emerging pest in North Carolina blueberries. *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* 17(1), pmag018. 17. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jipm/pmag018>

**Additional key words:** new pest, new host plant

**Computer codes:** PRINIM, US

**2026/144 *Potyvirus capsivenamaculae*: addition to the EPPO Alert List**

**Why:** Chilli veinal mottle virus (ChiVMV, *Potyvirus capsivenamaculae*) is an emerging virus first described in Asia where it causes significant yield losses in pepper (*Capsicum* sp.) crops. It has been spreading across parts of Asia and as well as into Africa and the state of Hawaii (USA). It was reported for the first time in the EPPO region in Italy in 2015 at a single outdoor site and eradicated. Considering the economic importance of pepper and tomato crops in the EPPO region, the NPPO of Spain suggested that ChiVMV should be added to the EPPO Alert List.

**Where:** ChiVMV was first reported in Malaysia in 1979 and is now widespread in continental Asia. It has also been reported in Africa, and in Hawaii (USA) in 2018. In 2015, ChiVMV was reported on chilli plants grown outdoors in Italy. Eradication measures were implemented, and ChiVMV was not detected in the following years.

**Africa:** Benin, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda

**Asia:** China (Chongqing, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan), India (Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh), Korea (Republic of), Indonesia (Java, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

**North America:** United States of America (Hawaii)

**On which plants:** ChiVMV mainly affects *Capsicum* spp. (*C. annuum*, *C. baccatum*, *C. chinense*, *C. frutescens*). Natural infections have been reported in solanaceous crop such as tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*), tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) African eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum*), other crops such as garden lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) as well as in weeds (e.g. *Solanum nigrum*, *Datura metel*, *D. innoxia*). It was also detected in several ornamental plants (e.g. *Buddleja crispa*, *Commelina* sp.).

**Damage:** Symptoms include dark-green mottles, mosaics, vein banding on leaves and leaf distortion. In severe cases, stems and branches will develop dark-green streaks. Affected plants exhibit smaller leaves, stunted growth and will develop fewer flowers and smaller fruits. In pepper crops, yield losses exceeding 50% have been reported with disease incidence up to 90%. The impact on yield in other hosts has not been quantified. ChiVMV has been reported to occur in mixed infections with other viruses, increasing infection severity.

**Transmission:** The virus can be transmitted by mechanical inoculation, grafting and by several insect vectors in a non-persistent manner (*Aphis craccivora*, *A. citricidus*, *A. gossypii*, *A. spiraeicola*, *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*). It is not seed transmitted. Over long distances, trade of infected plants is the most likely pathway.

**Pathways:** host plants for planting from countries where ChiVMV occurs.

**Possible risks:** Peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) are economically important crops grown indoors and/or outdoors across the EPPO region. If ChiVMV were to establish in the EPPO region, it would present a serious threat to pepper and potentially other host crop production (e.g. tomato and tobacco). There are limited measures available for the control of ChiVMV except removal of host plants and aphid vector control. Resistant and tolerant plant varieties have been developed but are not yet widely available. Ornamental and wild hosts as well as insect vectors are present across the EPPO region, which could facilitate the establishment and spread of ChiVMV.

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Additional key words: Alert List

Computer codes: CHIVMV

**2026/145 First report of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* tropical race 4 in Nepal**

*Fusarium* wilt of banana caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* Tropical race 4 (EPPO A2 list) is reported for the first time from Nepal. The pest was detected in June and September 2024 on banana plants (*Musa* sp.) showing leaf yellowing and reddish-brown discolouration of vascular tissues in Sudurpaschim and Lumbini provinces. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular testing. Pathogenicity tests were also conducted. Up to this finding, only *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* race 1 was known to cause wilt on banana in Nepal.

**Source:** Khadka RB, Adhikari I, Chanda H, Poudel B, Poudel B, Adhikari J, Ghimire A, Upadhyaya S, Kafle N, Acharya B, Poudel S (2026) First report of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* tropical race 4 (VCG 01213/16) causing Fusarium wilt to banana in Nepal. *Plant Disease* (early view) <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-26-0736-PDN>

**Pictures:** *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* tropical race 4. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/FUSAC4/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: FUSAC4, NP

**2026/146 First report of *Lecanosticta acicola* in Finland**

*Lecanosticta acicola* (EPPO A2 List), the causal agent of brown spot needle blight, is reported for the first time in Finland. In October 2025, researchers observed a single non-native ornamental *Pinus mugo* tree with needles showing brown circumferential lesions with yellow halos in the city of Salo, south-west Finland. Morphological and molecular testing confirmed the identity of the pest. Terhonen *et al.* (2026) suggest that this finding poses a risk to native Scots pine trees (*Pinus sylvestris*) as spread from non-native hosts to native hosts is likely,

climatic conditions are suitable and eradication is difficult once the pest is established. *Lecanosticta acicola* is a regulated non-quarantine pest within the EU.

The situation of *Lecanosticta acicola* in Finland can be described as: **Present, few occurrences (one urban tree in Salo, southwest Finland).**

**Source:** Terhonen E, Trifković M, Poimala A (2026) First record of brown spot needle blight (BSNB) caused by *Lecanosticta acicola* on *Pinus mugo* in Finland. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* 133(3), 97 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41348-026-01293-4>

**Pictures:** *Lecanosticta acicola*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCIRAC/photos>

**Additional key words:** new record

**Computer codes:** SCIRAC, FI

### 2026/147 Presence of bacterial spot of tomato and pepper in India

Surveys were conducted in India between May - October in 2019 - 2022 to survey bacterial leaf spot in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and pepper (*Capsicum* sp.) plants across nine states. The following *Xanthomonas* species were recorded for the first time from infected leaves and fruits in the following states:

- *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *euvesicatoria* (EPPO A2 List) was reported on tomato and chilli pepper plants in Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- *X. vesicatoria* (EPPO A2 List) was reported on tomato plants in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.
- *X. euvesicatoria* pv. *perforans* (EPPO A2 List) was reported on tomato and chilli pepper plants in Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

The identity of the pathogens was confirmed by molecular testing. *X. vesicatoria* was previously only reported in Karnataka and the EPPO Secretariat had no records of *X. euvesicatoria* pv. *perforans* or *X. euvesicatoria* pv. *euvesicatoria* in India.

**Source:** Babu PL, Devappa V, Rajender J, Geat N, Devi RS, Patidar R, Singh A, Banarwal VK, Padaria JC, Kamra A, Singh D. Unveiling the prevalence, pathogenic and molecular characterization of *Xanthomonas* strains responsible for bacterial leaf spot of tomato and pepper in India. *Journal of Plant Pathology* (early view) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-026-02202-2>

**Pictures:** *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *euvesicatoria* <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XANTEU/photos>  
*Xanthomonas vesicatoria* <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XANTVE/photos>  
*Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *perforans* <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XANTPF/photos>

**Additional key words:** new record, detailed record

**Computer codes:** XANTPF, XANTVE, XANTEU, IN

**2026/148 First report of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Scotland (United Kingdom)**

The NPPO of the United Kingdom recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first outbreak of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV - EPPO A2 List) in Scotland. Eradication measures are applied and include the removal of all plants from the affected glasshouse and its disinfection.

There are now 6 active ToBRFV outbreaks in the United Kingdom (five in England, one in Scotland). The outbreak in Jersey (Channel Islands) (EPPO RS 2025/017) has been eradicated.

The pest status of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in the United Kingdom is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

**Source:** NPPO of the United Kingdom (2026-06).

IPPC website. Official Pest Reports - United Kingdom (GBR-40/1 of 2022-06-19)  
Tomato brown rugose fruit virus. - (TOBRFV) pest report 2026.  
<https://www.ippc.int/fr/countries/united-kingdom/pestreports/2026/06/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus-tobrfv-2026/>

**Pictures:** Tomato brown rugose fruit virus. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOBRFV/photos>

**Additional key words:** detailed record, eradication

**Computer codes:** TOBRFV, GB, JS

**2026/149 Update on the situation of citrus yellow vein clearing virus in Spain**

In Spain, citrus yellow vein clearing virus (*Potexvirus citriflavivenae*, CYVCV, EPPO Alert List) was first reported in September 2025 in Cataluña and in Comunidad Valenciana (RS 2026/039). The NPPO of Spain recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first findings of CYVCV in the autonomous communities of Andalucía and Región de Murcia.

**Andalucía**

Official surveys were conducted in 2026 in nurseries and citrus commercial orchards. CYVCV was detected in a one-year-old symptomatic lemon tree (*Citrus x limon* 'Verna') in May 2026 in a plantation in Huércal-Overa municipality (Almería province). The identity of the pest was confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory. The farmer decided to uproot all citrus plants from the plot.

During further surveys in May 2026, asymptomatic orange (*Citrus x aurantium* var. *sinensis*) trees in two plantations in Vera and Huércal-Overa municipalities tested positive for CYVCV. No demarcated area has been established but precautionary phytosanitary measures were applied, including the application of plant protection products and control of aphid vectors.

**Región de Murcia**

Following notification of symptoms of CYVCV by two farmers, CYVCV was detected in four symptomatic one-year-old lemon trees (*Citrus x limon*) and one one-year-old asymptomatic orange tree (*Citrus x aurantium* var. *sinensis* 'Sanguinelli') in April 2026 in plantations in the municipalities of Blanca and Mula (Murcia province). The virus was identified by molecular testing. The seedlings had originated from nurseries in other regions of Spain. No demarcated area has been established but precautionary phytosanitary measures are applied including treatments against insect vectors, the destruction of plants that tested positive for CYVCV

and the disinfection of cutting tools. Surveys to detect CYVCV in nurseries and plantations of young trees are ongoing.

The pest status of citrus yellow vein clearing virus in Spain is officially declared as: **Present, in specific parts of the Member State, where host crop(s) are grown, actionable, under surveillance.**

**Source:** NPPO of Spain (2026-06).

**Pictures:** *Potexvirus citriflavivenae*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSYV00/photos>

Additional key words: detailed record

Computer codes: CSYV00, ES

### **2026/150 New report of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in Spain**

In Spain, *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPP0 A2 List) was first reported in seeds in 2001 and later reported to cause bacterial wilt of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) growing in fields in Andalucía in 2004 (EPP0 RS 2006/120), before being eradicated in 2011.

In November 2025, 21 lots of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* cv. ‘Riñón’) were sampled from 12 fields from the municipalities of Pozuelo del Páramo and Roperuelos del Páramo (León province, autonomous community of Castilla y León). The bean lots came from a Protected Geographical Indication site and were intended for human consumption. In April 2026, the National Reference Laboratory identified *C. flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in a sample from one of the lots using molecular testing. Phytosanitary measures aiming at eradication have been applied according to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031: they include the destruction of the infested bean lot, and the prohibition to grow Fabaceae plants in the demarcated area (corresponding to the plots where the beans from the infected lot were cultivated). Further monitoring will be carried out in 2026 and 2027.

The pest status of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in Spain is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

**Source:** NPPO of Spain (2026-05).

**Pictures:** *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*.  
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CORBFL/photos>

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: CORBFL, ES

### **2026/151 New report of *Clavibacter sepedonicus* in Italy (Calabria)**

The NPPO of Italy recently informed the EPP0 Secretariat that *Clavibacter sepedonicus* (EPP0 A2 List) was found in March 2026 in ware potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) from warehouses in Spezzano and Celio municipalities (Cosenza province, Calabria region). During official surveys, twenty samples of 200 asymptomatic tubers were tested for the bacterium. *C. sepedonicus* was identified in two of these samples by molecular testing. Phytosanitary measures have been applied with the aim of eradication, including destruction of all potatoes from the warehouses and disinfection of machinery and storage facilities where the infected tubers were found.

The pest status of *Clavibacter sepedonicus* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present**.

**Source:** NPPO of Italy (2026-06).

**Pictures:** *Clavibacter sepedonicus*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CORBSE/photos>

**Additional key words:** detailed record

**Computer codes:** CORBSE, IT

### 2026/152 Eradication of tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus in Slovakia

Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (*Begomovirus solanumdelhiense*, ToLCNDV, EPPO A2 List) was first reported in Slovakia on symptomatic watermelon plants (*Citrullus lanatus*) in a small farm in the municipality of Seňa (Košický kraj, Eastern Slovakia) in July 2022 and eradication measures were applied (EPPO RS 2022/169). The NPPO of Slovakia has recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that ToLCNDV has been eradicated on its territory.

The pest status of tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus in Slovakia is officially declared as: **Eradicated**.

**Source:** NPPO of Slovakia (2026-05).

**Pictures:** Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOLCND/photos>

**Additional key words:** eradication, absence

**Computer codes:** TOLCND, SK

### 2026/153 Potential vectors of grapevine red blotch virus

Currently, the only known vector of grapevine red blotch virus (*Grablovirus vitis*, GRBV - EPPO A1 List) is *Spissistilus festinus* (Hemiptera: Membracidae). However, this species is not present in some highly infected vineyards, which suggests that other vector species are involved.

Two recent articles report potential vectors of GRBV:

During a survey conducted in 2018-2019 in Oregon (USA) in a GRBV-infected vineyard the leafhoppers *Euscelidius variegatus* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) and *Dikraneura absenta* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) as well as a *Nothodelphax* sp. tested positive for GRBV and transmission tests showed that they can transmit the virus.

A survey conducted in 2023-2024 in Baja California (Mexico) showed that *Tortistilus wickhami* (Hemiptera: Membracidae) can acquire the virus in the field and laboratory settings. However, no transmission to recipient plants occurred in transmission tests.

*T. wickhami* is widely distributed across North America, it was previously known to occur from Canada to South California and was first reported in Baja California (Mexico) in 2023.

**Source:** Ford-Villalón C, Schneider D, Montesinos-Solano I, Carrillo-Tripp J (2026) Potential transmission of grapevine red blotch virus (*Grablovirus vitis*, Geminiviridae) by Nearctic treehopper (*Tortistilus wickhami*) in Baja California, Mexico. *Revista mexicana de fitopatología* 44(2). <https://doi.org/10.18781/r.mex.fit.2512-4>

Schneider D, Ford-Villalón C, Acosta-Ramos K, Carrillo-Tripp J, Monjarás-Barrera JI, Ceccarelli FS (2025) First record of *Tortistilus wickhami* (Van Duzee,

1908)(Hemiptera: Membracidae) in Vineyards of Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California, Mexico. *Psyche: A Journal of Entomology* 2025, 8375004.  
<https://doi.org/10.1155/psyc/8375004>

Lee JC, Keller K, Lake AJ, Soule ML, Martin RR (2026) Surveying for potential grapevine red blotch virus vectors in an Oregon vineyard. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 119(3), 1639-1645.

**Pictures:** Grapevine red blotch virus. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GRBAV0/photos>

**Additional key words:** aetiology, vector

**Computer codes:** DIKRAS, EUSDVA, GRBAV0, TORZWI

**2026/154 Investigating potential of biocontrol of *Parthenium hysterophorus* in Oman**

*Parthenium hysterophorus* (Asteraceae: EPPO A2 List) is a highly invasive plant species which has negative impacts on biodiversity and agriculture production across the globe. In Oman, *P. hysterophorus* can invade natural and agricultural habitats. Surveys were conducted in the monsoon-influenced Dhofar region of Oman to assess insect species associated with the plant. In total, fifteen insect groups representing Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera, Hemiptera, and Orthoptera were found feeding on plants. Species of Lepidoptera (e.g. *Hypena*) and Diptera (e.g. *Lethyna* and *Liriomyza*) were recorded causing substantial damage to foliage and flowers of *P. hysterophorus* and may have potential as biological control agents. At some sites, *Hypena* species infested up to 60 % of *P. hysterophorus* plants surveyed. Further studies are required on the taxonomy, life history, host specificity, and ecological interactions to determine their suitability for integration into biological control programs against *P. hysterophorus*.

**Source:** Al-Jahdhami AA, Al-Subhi AM, Akaak MM, Al-Wahahibi AK (2026) Investigation of biological control agents for the invasive plant *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. (Asteraceae) in Southern Oman. *BioAssay* 21, ba21002  
<https://doi.org/10.37486/1809-8460.ba21002>

**Additional key words:** invasive alien plants, biological control agents

**Computer codes:** PTNHY, OM

**2026/155 Post-release monitoring of biological control agents against *Alliaria petiolata* in Canada**

*Alliaria petiolata* (Brassicaceae) is native to the EPPO region and an invasive alien plant in Canada and the USA. It is a biennial species which in the first year forms a rosette and in the second year develops a stem and flowers. In North America it has negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services where it can outcompete native plants and alter soil microorganisms and nutrient cycling through allelopathic effects. In Canada in 2023, *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) was released as a biological control agent against *A. petiolata* at field sites in Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. A post-release monitoring programme was established to assess the effectiveness of the agent and during this monitoring programme a native beetle, *Mordellina ancilla* (Coleoptera: Mordellidae), was observed in *A. petiolata* stems. Further surveys revealed that *M. ancilla* was a widespread stem-borer in late second year and dead *A. petiolata* plants. The observed life cycle of *M. ancilla* indicates that it is unlikely to negatively impact the growth and reproduction of *A. petiolata* and it is unlikely to affect the use of *C. scrobicollis* as a biological control agent.

**Source:** Hall TCK, McTavish MJ, Boutchier RS, Smith SM (2025) First record of the native beetle *Mordellina ancilla* (Coleoptera: Mordellidae) in association with introduced garlic mustard (Brassicaceae) in Ontario, Canada. *The Canadian Entomologist* 157, e19, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.4039/tce.2025.7>

**Additional key words:** biological control agents, invasive alien plants

**Computer codes:** ALAPE, CEUTSC, MOREUS, CA

**2026/156    The accidental introduction of *Ophraella communa* in the EPPO region**

*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Asteraceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) is native to North America and an invasive alien plant species in the EPPO region, Asia, Africa and Australia. *A. artemisiifolia* is an annual weed which competes strongly with crop plants for water and nutrients. It also causes major impacts on health because of its strong allergenic pollen. The North American herbivorous leaf beetle *Ophraella communa* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) is a natural enemy of *A. artemisiifolia* in its native range and has been accidentally introduced into Asia and the EPPO region. It was first reported from Europe from northern Italy in 2013 (EPPO RS 2013-204) and in Switzerland in the same year. It has been recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2020), Croatia (2018), France (2023), Hungary (2020), Romania (2020), Serbia (2020), Slovenia (2017) and more recently in Austria (2024) and Slovakia (2024). Its effectiveness as a biological control agent has been shown as in the Milano region (Lombardia, Italy), where it has reduced the airborne concentration of *A. artemisiifolia* pollen by 86 %. Even though there has been a lot of research on the host specificity of *O. communa*, the potential environmental risk of this beetle for EPPO countries still remains to be determined. The host range of *O. communa* is not yet entirely clear, but may be wider than is currently known. Further host specificity studies should be conducted to fully assess the potential non-target risks by *O. communa* in agricultural and natural habitats.

**Source:** Nduwayo P, Schaffner U, Tarigan SI, Dorner Z, Kiss J, Desneux N, Lesieur V, Rousset Z, Müller-Schärer H, Toepfer S (2025) Risk assessment approaches for *Ophraella communa* as a biological control agent for *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in agricultural landscapes of southeastern Central Europe: a review. *Agronomy* **15**, 1771. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15081771>

**Additional key words:** biological control agents, invasive alien plants

**Computer codes:** AMBEL, OPHLCO

**2026/157    *Physalis longifolia* in the EPPO region: addition to the EPPO Alert List****Why**

*Physalis longifolia* (Solanaceae) is recorded as present in the EPPO region where it can occur in agricultural fields. The EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants are seeking further information on any additional occurrences of *P. longifolia* the EPPO region.

**Geographical distribution**

**EPPO region:** Austria, Italy

**Africa:** Kenya, Mauritius, Reunion, South Africa, Zimbabwe

**Asia:** Myanmar, Republic of Korea

**North America:** United States of America\* (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming)

**Oceania:** Australia (Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria)

\* = Native distribution

**Morphology**

*Physalis longifolia* is a perennial herb arising from a deep caudex and spreading by shoots from lateral roots. The stems are erect, often branching, and typically covered with fine hairs, giving them a rough texture, 30-100 cm tall, often purplish.

**Biology and Ecology**

The average number of seeds per plant is approximately 400 though large plants can produce almost 4 000 seeds per year. Small pieces of rhizomes can regenerate into viable plants.

**Habitats**

*Physalis longifolia* can grow in cultivated land, pastures and roadsides. In Austria, it has been recorded in soybean and maize fields.

**Pathways for movement**

International pathways include seed as a contaminant of grain and seed for planting. Seed can be moved via agricultural practices. Natural spread is by animals eating the fruit and spread the seed in their droppings. The fruit float and can be spread by moving water.

**Impacts**

*Physalis longifolia* can have a negative impact on crop yields when it invades agricultural areas. It can directly compete with crops and can also have economic impacts by contaminating crops. *P. longifolia* is a host for several plant pests, e.g. *Bactericera cockerelli* (EPPO A1 List). All parts of the plant are toxic.

**Control**

Management measures include physical and mechanical control measures. Control using herbicides is possible, however, their use in certain habitats is restricted.

**Source:** Corral CAR, Cooper WR, Horton D, Miliczky E, Riebe J, Waters T, Wildung M, Karasev AV (2021) Association of *Bactericera cockerelli* (Hemiptera: Triozidae) with the perennial weed *Physalis longifolia* (Solanales: Solanaceae) in the potato-growing regions of Western Idaho. *Environmental Entomology* **50** 1416-1424.  
 Portal to the Flora of Italy (2026) *Physalis longifolia* Nutt. [https://dryades.units.it/floritaly/index.php?procedure=taxon\\_page&tipo=all&id=12749](https://dryades.units.it/floritaly/index.php?procedure=taxon_page&tipo=all&id=12749)  
 Zernig K, Griehl N, Kniely G, Kundigraber W, Leonhartsberger S, Pörtl M, Stöhr O (2025) Bemerkenswertes zur Flora der Steiermark 12. *Natura Styriaca* **1**, 208-220.

**Pictures:** *Physalis longifolia*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYLF/photos>

Additional key words: Alert List

Computer codes: PHYLF

## 2026/158 Prioritization of plants species from the EPPO Alert List

In May 2026, the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants prioritised three alien plant species from the EPPO Alert List using the EPPO Standard PM 5/6 *EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants*. A summary for each species is detailed below.

### ***Acalypha australis* (Euphorbiaceae)**

*Acalypha australis* is native to Asia and is recorded in several EPPO countries. Natural spread via seed can promote local spread of the species. However, it is unlikely that the seed can be spread over long distances as there is no evidence of seed being wind dispersed or spread by birds eating seed. *A. australis* has the potential to spread via agricultural practices including movement of machinery and equipment. The magnitude of spread was rated as high, and the potential impact on agriculture was rated as high. The result of the prioritization was that *A. australis* is transferred from the Alert List to the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants and, due to the potential for further entry and spread, it is a priority for a pest risk analysis.

### ***Ambrosia grayi* (Asteraceae)**

*Ambrosia grayi* is native to North America (Mexico, USA) and it occurs in Israel as a transient species. In the USA, *A. grayi* can reproduce by both seed and rhizomes, with the latter extending up to 3 m deep in the soil. However, in Israel, sexual reproduction is considered unlikely to significantly contribute to the spread of the species. In Texas (US), *A. grayi* is considered highly competitive in crops such as cotton and grain sorghum. The magnitude of spread was rated as medium, and the potential impact on agriculture was rated as medium. The result of the prioritization was that *A. grayi* is transferred from the Alert List to the EPPO Observation List.

### ***Aponogeton distachyos* (Aponogetonaceae)**

*Aponogeton distachyos* is native to South Africa and has a limited distribution in the natural environment in the EPPO region. It can be spread by natural and human assisted mechanisms. Ripe fruit can float for a short period of time before releasing negatively buoyant seeds which can move with the water body. Where it occurs, *A. distachyos* can form floating mats which can reduce light transmission and may alter the quality of the water body by reducing oxygen levels. Ecosystem services can be negatively affected, for example by reducing access to the water body or blocking irrigation channels. The magnitude of spread was rated as high and the potential impact on biodiversity and habitats was rated as high. The result of the prioritization was that *A. distachyos* is transferred from the Alert List to the EPPO List

of Invasive Alien Plants and, due to the potential for further entry and spread, it is a priority for a pest risk analysis.

- Source:** EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants (2026-05).  
 EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin* 42, 463-474. <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.2592>
- Pictures:** *Acalypha australis*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ACCAU/photos>  
*Ambrosia grayi*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AMBGR/photos>  
*Aponogeton distachyos*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/APGDI/photos>

**Additional key words:** invasive alien plants, prioritization

**Computer codes:** ACCAU, AMBGR, APGDI

### 2026/159 *Ambrosia psilostachya* and *Xanthium spinosum*: addition to the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants

In May 2026, the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants prioritised two widespread alien species using the Standard PM 5/6 *EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants*. The Panel agreed both species should be included on the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants.

#### ***Ambrosia psilostachya* (Asteraceae)**

*Ambrosia psilostachya* is native to North America and widespread in the EPPO region. *Ambrosia psilostachya* spreads naturally by both seed and rhizomes. Seed is wind dispersed and can become incorporated into the water body. Plant propagules have been shown to travel over distances of up to 170 km from and to coastal dunes by sea currents. In the EPPO region *A. psilostachya* can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Currently, *A. psilostachya* is not a common species in agricultural systems in the EPPO region. However, with habitat and land use change, and with the effect of climate change, there may be the potential for establishment and impact in agricultural systems.

#### ***Xanthium spinosum* (Asteraceae)**

*Xanthium spinosum* is native to the Americas and is established in more than 20 EPPO countries. It spreads via seed which can be dispersed from the parent plant by water (moving along the water body) and by animals and human activity. *X. spinosum* can grow in a variety of different habitats where it can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Studies have shown that with the increase of percentage cover of *X. spinosum*, native plant species and community stability decrease.

- Source:** EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants (2026-05).  
 EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin* 42, 463-474. <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.2592>

**Pictures:** *Xanthium spinosum*. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XANSP/photos>

**Additional key words:** Invasive alien plants

**Computer codes:** AMBPS, XANSP

**2026/160 First report of *Furcraea hexapetala* in Morocco**

*Furcraea hexapetala* (Asparagaceae) is a plant native to Central America and is a popular ornamental species in many regions of the world. Botanical surveys were conducted between January and September 2025 in the Tangier region (northern Morocco). A small, naturalised population of *F. hexapetala* was recorded along coastal slopes in the Cap Spartel forest, west of Tangier. Another occurrence was found near Rabat, along the arboretum of Oued Cherrat. It appears that these populations were initially introduced through past plantings, subsequently abandoned, and is now undergoing natural expansion. In Morocco, flowering occurs in February to March and August to September. Bulbils are formed in April to September and October to January. *F. hexapetala* is reported as invasive in the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), where it can form dense stands which have the potential to outcompete native plant species.

**Source:** Bakali AH, Khamar H, Verloove F (2026) *Furcraea hexapetala* (Asparagaceae, Agavoideae), a naturalised species new to the flora of Morocco. *Bradleya* **44**, 152-162. <https://doi.org/10.25223/brad.n44.2026.a16>

**Additional key words:** new record, invasive alien plants

**Computer codes:** FURCU, MA