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Plant Health Newsletter on HORIZON SCANNING

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Introduction

Following a request from the European Commission¹, EFSA provides here the Horizon Scanning Newsletter summarising the monthly results of the horizon scanning activity for threats in the field of plant health, that were published on the web during the previous month (e.g. the newsletter of February 2023 covers the period 1-31 January 2023). The aim is to identify in a timely manner relevant information on plant pests that might be of concern to the EU and therefore may require consideration by risk assessors and risk managers.

The monitoring system is based on the automatic public health surveillance platform [MEDISYS \(Medical Information System\)](#), scanning more than 20,900 sources in 79 languages from 204 countries, covering all world's regions. At this moment, 2,496 plant pests (pests regulated in the EU, pests listed by EPPO and new plant pests) have been daily monitored in media, scientific literature and social media (EFSA, 2021² and data from September 2021).

The monitored plant pest species include

- 1 regulated pests listed in Annexes IIA and IIB of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072³ and later amendments, in other [EU plant health legal acts](#) or present in the [EPPO Alert](#), [A1](#) and [A2](#) lists.
- 2 Pests not regulated in the EU neither part of EPPO lists.
- 3 Newly identified taxa: as soon as included in a newsletter, they are also added to the list of monitored pests.

The final selection of articles and main issues for the newsletter is conducted by a dedicated EFSA working group meeting once a month⁴ with the support of EFSA staff and contractors. The EPPO Global Database⁵, CABI Crop Protection Compendium⁶ and previous EFSA outputs⁷ are fundamental tools supporting this decision process.

The newsletter is composed of three parts:

1. a summary of the content of the newsletter.
2. a presentation of the main issues of the month, identified and selected by a group of experts. They include the most relevant news, in particular: i) new threats represented by non-regulated pests, ii) first findings of pests regulated in the EU. In the first category are included pests screened by the PeMoScoring (EFSA, 2022⁸) with positive result, with a few details on their biology and reasons supporting the positive score.

¹ European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, Request to provide a scientific and technical assistance on a horizon scanning exercise in view to crisis preparedness on plant health for the EU territory (M-2017-0012, EFSA-Q-2017-00037).

² EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Mannino M R, Larenaudie M, Linge J P, Candresse T, Jaques Miret J A, Jeger M J, Gachet E, Maiorano A, Muñoz Guajardo I, Stancanelli G, 2021. Horizon Scanning for Plant Health: report on 2017-2020 activities. EFSA supporting publication 2021:EN-2010. 113 pp. doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-2010

³ Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019. Official Journal of the European Union L 319, latest consolidated version.

⁴ Minutes of the meetings are available here <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/plant-health/wg-plh-horizon-scanning.pdf>

⁵ EPPO, 2023. EPPO Global Database (available online). <https://gd.eppo.int>

⁶ CABI, 2023. Crop Protection Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. www.cabi.org/cpc



















⁷ EFSA Journal <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>














⁸ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Tayeh C, Mannino MR, Mosbach-Schulz O, Stancanelli G, Tramontini S, Gachet E, Candresse T, Jaques Miret JA and Jeger MJ, 2022. Scientific Report on the proposal of a ranking methodology for plant threats in the EU. EFSA Journal 2022;20 (1):7025, 59 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7025>


































3. a list with active links to the selected articles: they are organised by regulation and EPPO lists where they appear, then by taxonomy. A coloured shape to the side of each article will help identifying the type of source:
 - Scientific publication
 - Official media (digital newspapers, magazines), grey sources (reports, government documents, working papers, etc)
 - ◆ Social media, blogs, email alerts (bulletins, news, discussion fora, etc)
















This newsletter will serve the EC and Member States in addressing phytosanitary questions. Moreover, it will benefit professionals working in the field and the informed public.

1. Summary

Table legend				
PeMoScoring	Host	Host range	Damage	EU distribution
 Negative PeMo Scoring  Positive PeMo Scoring	 Forest plants  Fruit plants  Vegetables  Ornamental and flower plants  Cereals  Oil and fibre plants  Other plants	 Monophagous / One host plant  Oligophagous / Restricted range of host plants  Polyphagous / Wide range of host plants	 Qualitative losses  Quantitative losses  Damage leading to plant death  Vector	 Present in the EU  Absent from the EU

Pest	Hosts	Host range	Damage	EU distribution	Regulatory status	Topic
<u>Atherigo na orientalis</u> 	 Cabbage, pepper, orange, melon, tomato, beans, sorghum		 Larvae feed on fruit, tissue deterioration and softening, loss of vigour, external colour change.	 CY, ES, GR, MT	Not listed	First finding
<u>Cacopsylla fuscicella</u>	 Loquat		 Phloem sap sucking, young leaves and flowers wilting, fruit russet.	 Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Heterodera zeae</u>					Not listed	First finding

	Mainly maize	<i>Poaceae</i>	Plants are stunted, appear pale-green and exhibit poor growth.	GR, PT		
<u>Nematus maculostigmatus</u>	 Oriental cork oak		 Larvae feed on leaves, can defoliate an entire tree leading to major dieback.	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Psacotha hilaris hilaris</u> 	 Fig, mulberry	 <i>Moraceae</i>	 Larvae bore tunnels in trunks, adults feed on leaves.	✓ FR, DE, IT	Not listed	Distribution
<u>Sunn-hemp mottle virus</u>	 Sunn hemp		 Stunting, leaves mottling and mosaic	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Tomato zonal spot virus</u>	 Tomato, potato, <i>Capsicum</i>		 Ringspot on fruits and necrotic lesions on leaves.	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
<u>Watermelon crinkle leaf-associate d virus 1</u> 	 Watermelon	 <i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	 Leaf yellowing and crinkling	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
<u>Zoysia mosaic virus</u>	 Zoysiagrasses		 Mosaic-like symptoms	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</u>	 Pine, fir, cedar		 Dieback and plant death.	✓ ES, PT	Priority pest	Control method
<u>Popillia japonica</u>	 Mainly maize, soybean, grapevine, cherry tree, ornamental trees and shrubs.		 Feeds on plants. Symptoms and damages closely related to the host.	✓ IT, PT (Azores)	Priority pest	Control measure
<u>Spodoptera frugiperda</u>	 Major hosts maize, sugarcane, millet, rice, cotton.		 Larval feeding on foliage.	✗ Absent. Present in Canary Island (ES)	Priority pest	Potential distribution New host plant Management
				✓	Priority pest	First finding

<u><i>Xylella fastidiosa</i></u>	Mainly almond, citrus, grapevine, olive		Dieback/reduced growth/plant death. Asymptomatic in some species or cvars.	Under official control in ES, FR, IT and PT		Vectors
<u><i>Cotton leaf curl Gezira virus</i></u>	 Mainly cotton		 Leaf curling, foliar discoloration and mosaic	✓ DE	Quarantine pest	First finding
<u><i>Meloidogyne enterolobii</i></u>	 Sweet potato, beans, tomato and other vegetables		 Root galling and stunting	✓ PT	Quarantine pest	New host plant
<u><i>Potato yellow dwarf virus</i></u>	 Mainly potato		 Plant dwarfing, yellowing and necrosis.	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New finding and New host plant
<u><i>Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum</i></u>	 Bell pepper, figs, olive, potato, tomato, also ornamentals		 Bacterial wilting	✓ DE, HU, PL	Quarantine pest	New finding
<u><i>Tomato ringspot virus</i></u>	 Mainly zonal geranium, peach, raspberry and many other hosts		 Yellow blotch pattern on foliage and plant decline.	✓ Under official control	Quarantine pest	New finding

2. Main issues of May 2023

Atherigona orientalis

 Positive PeMoScoring

Atherigona orientalis is an insect, currently not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists. This newsletter includes one article about this pest.

The article reports the first finding of the insect in Greece. It has been previously reported in Spain, Malta, and Cyprus. The pest is a polyphagous fly with host plants in numerous families such as Solanaceae, Rutaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Brassicaceae, and Poaceae. The symptoms are often non-specific and compatible with those of other fruit flies or stem borers. This pest was included in the PeMoScoring screening and scored positive.

All the articles on *Atherigona orientalis* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Heterodera zeae

 Positive PeMoScoring

Heterodera zeae is a nematode, currently not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists, but was previously listed in the EPPO Alert list until 2015. This newsletter includes one article about this pest.

The article reports the first finding of the pest in Spain. It has been previously reported in Greece and Portugal. The nematode is polyphagous with its main hosts in the Poaceae family, such as rice, maize, and barley. The symptoms and cysts on the host plant are similar to other cyst nematodes. This pest was included in the PeMoScoring screening and scored positive.

All the articles on *Heterodera zeae* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Spodoptera frugiperda

Spodoptera frugiperda is an insect pest regulated as a priority pest and listed in Annex II A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter includes three articles about this highly polyphagous insect.

The first article describes the potential distribution of the pest in Southern Europe. The second article reports a new host plant, taro (*Colocasia esculenta*).

All the articles on *Spodoptera frugiperda* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Xylella fastidiosa

Xylella fastidiosa is a plant pathogenic bacterium regulated as a priority pest and listed in Annex II B of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, subject of EU emergency measures (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201). This newsletter includes two articles concerning this bacterium.

The first article reports the first finding of the pest in Lebanon. The symptoms were first observed in the late summer of 2020 on almond trees. The second article describes experiments that confirm that European cicadas are not vectors of the bacterium since it was not identified in different cicada species collected in infected areas in Corsica.

All the articles on *Xylella fastidiosa* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

3. Selected articles

3.1. New EU threats

3.1.1 Non-regulated pests in the EU

Insects and mites

Atherigona orientalis

Authority: Schiner

Insecta, Diptera, Muscidae

 Positive PeMoScoring

- First finding (GR)

[First Report of the Pepper Fruit Fly *Atherigona orientalis* \(Schiner 1968\) \(Diptera: Muscidae\) Infesting Commercial Pepper Crops in Greece](#)

Insects 18.Apr.2023

The pepper fruit fly *Atherigona orientalis* is a cosmopolitan tropical dipteran pest. The biology of *A. orientalis* is primarily associated with rotting fruits and vegetables, but also with vertebrate and invertebrate carrion and manure. In recent years, *A. orientalis* has also been reported as a major pest of pepper fruits. Hereby, we report, for the first time in Greece and, to the best of our knowledge, in Europe, cases of pepper fruit fly damaging pepper fruits in commercial greenhouse crops (in Crete in 2022). [\(more\)](#)

Cacopsylla fuscicella sp. nov.

Authority: Zhao, Luo, Liu, Shi, Cai, Song

Insecta, Hemiptera, Psyllidae

- New pest

[Cacopsylla fuscicella](#) Sp. Nov. (Hemiptera, Psyllidae), a New Loquat Pest in China

Insects 26.Apr.2023

Cacopsylla, the most species-rich genus of Psyllidae, has around 500 known species worldwide. These insects are known for being host-specific, and some of them are regarded as important pests. Here, we described a new species, *Cacopsylla fuscicella* sp. nov., which develops on loquats.

Nematus maculostigmatus

Authority: Liu & Wei

Insecta, Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae

- New pest

[A New Species of *Nematus* Panzer \(Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae\), a Defoliator of *Quercus variabilis* in Beijing, China](#)

Scientia Silvae Sinicae 27.Apr.2023

This paper describes a new species of the genus *Nematus* (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae), *Nematus maculostigmatus* Liu & Wei, sp. nov. The insect is collected from Pinggu District, Beijing, where its larvae feed on leaves of *Quercus variabilis* and even can defoliate entire tree leaves at high densities. Recurrent defoliation can cause major dieback. ([more](#))

Psacotha hilaris hilaris

Authority: (Pascoe, 1858)

Insecta, Coleoptera, Cerambycidae

 Negative PeMoScoring

- Distribution (IT)

[Exploring the range expansion of the yellow-spotted longhorn beetle *Psacotha hilaris hilaris* in northern Italy](#)

Agricultural and Forest Entomology 13.Apr.2023

Psacotha hilaris hilaris is an exotic cerambycid detected in Lombardy (northern Italy) in 2005 and now established and undergoing an expansion phase. The species constitutes a serious pest for *Ficus* spp and *Morus* spp. The aim of this work is to update the distribution area of the species in Italy, investigating its expansion over 16 years.

([more](#))

Nematodes

Heterodera zae

Authority: Koshy, Swarup & Sethi

Chromadorea, Rhabditida, Heteroderidae

 Positive PeMoScoring

- First finding (ES)

[First Report of *Heterodera zae* Koshy, Swarup & Sethi, 1971 \(corn cyst Nematode\) Infecting Corn \(*Zea mays*\) in Spain](#)

Plant Disease 02.Apr.2023

Heterodera zae Koshy, Swarup & Sethi, 1971 (corn cyst nematode) is an important disease of corn in several areas of the world, including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Egypt, USA, Greece and Portugal (Subbotin et al., 2010). It is a sedentary semi-endoparasite feeding on corn roots and other Poaceae plants and has been associated with significant yield losses in corn (Subbotin et al., 2010). During autumn 2022 a plant-parasitic nematode survey performed in corn at central-western area of Spain (Talavera de la Reina, Toledo), revealed a commercial field with stunted plants. ([more](#))

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Sunn-hemp mottle virus

Viruses, Virgaviridae, Tobamovirus

- New pest

[Molecular and biological characterization of a novel tobamovirus infecting sunn hemp \(*Crotalaria juncea* L.\) in Hawaii](#)

Plant Disease 27.Apr.2023

Sunn hemp (*Crotalaria juncea* L.) cv. Tropic Sun plants, stunted and displaying mottle and mosaic symptoms on foliage, were observed at a seed farm in Maui County, Hawaii. Lateral flow assays indicated the presence of either tobacco mosaic virus or a serologically-related virus. ([more](#))

Tomato zonate spot virus

Viruses, Tospoviridae, Orthotospovirus

- First finding (JP)

[First report of tomato zonate spot virus on green pepper in Japan](#)

Research Square 13.Apr.2023 – Not peer-reviewed

In 2021, necrotic spot of leaves and stem necrosis were observed on green pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.) in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. The virus isolated through two-rounds of single lesion isolation, the nucleotide sequence of the N gene of the isolate shared 95% identity with that of the tomato zonate spot virus (TZSV) reported in China. ([more](#))

Watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1

Viruses, Phenuiviridae, Coguvirus

 Negative PeMoScoring

- New host plant

[First report of *Watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1* \(WCLaV-1\) on *Cucurbita pepo* in the United States](#)

New Disease Reports 05.Apr.23

Zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*) is widely grown in Florida and contributes to the US\$35 million value production of all types of squash in the state (United States Department of Agriculture/ National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2021). In August 2022, zucchini (cv. Renegade) in a commercial field in North Florida, USA, showed pronounced chlorosis and mild crinkle on leaves in scattered areas (Fig. 1). The disease incidence was approximately 35%. [\(more\)](#)

Zoysia mosaic virus

Viruses, Potyviridae, Poacevirus

- New pest

[Complete genome sequence of *zoysia mosaic virus*, a novel member of the genus *Poacevirus*](#)

Archives of Virology 12.Apr.2023

Here, we report the detection and characterization of the genome of a novel poacevirus isolated from *Zoysia matrella* (Merrill) imported into the United States from Japan. The novel virus, tentatively named "zoysia mosaic virus" (ZoMV), is a single-stranded RNA virus with a genome of 9,728 nucleotides (nt) in length, encoding a large putative polyprotein of 3,119 amino acids (aa). [\(more\)](#)

3.2. Regulated pests

3.2.1 Priority pests⁹

Bursaphelenchus xylophilus

Authority: (Steiner & Bühner) Nickle
Chromadorea, Rhabditida, Aphelenchoididae

- Control method

[Industrial assays to evaluate the efficacy of vacuum pressure impregnation with commercial wood preservatives to eliminate the pinewood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, and other nematodes from *Pinus pinaster* wood](#)

European Journal of Wood and Wood Products 10.Apr.2023

To demonstrate the efficacy of the vacuum pressure impregnation (VPI) with commercial wood preservative products to eliminate the quarantine organism, pinewood nematode (PWN), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, and other nematodes from maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*) wood, in vitro assays and industrial assays in horizontal industrial autoclave tanks were conducted. ([more](#))

Popillia japonica

Authority: Newman
Insecta, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae

- Control measure

[Effectiveness of field-exposed attract-and-kill devices against the adults of *Popillia japonica* \(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae\): a study on duration, form and storage](#)

Pest Management Science 25.Apr.2023

The Japanese beetle *Popillia japonica* Newman is an insect pest native to Japan that has spread into North America, the Azores, and, recently, into continental Europe. Here, we present a study assessing the effectiveness of a Long-Lasting Insecticide-treated Net (LLIN), assembled in semiochemical-baited attract-and-kill devices (A&Ks) as a low environmental impact means to control *P. japonica* in the field. ([more](#))

Spodoptera frugiperda

Authority: (Smith)
Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

- Potential distribution

[Migration risk of fall armyworm \(*Spodoptera frugiperda*\) from North Africa to Southern Europe](#)

⁹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1702 of 1 August 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the list of priority pests. OJ L 260, 11.10.2019, p. 8–10

Frontiers in Plant Science 03.Apr.2023

With the development of globalization and agriculture trade, as well as its own strong migratory capacity, fall armyworm (FAW) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) (J.E. Smith) has invaded more than 70 countries, posing a serious threat to the production of major crops in these areas. FAW has now also been detected in Egypt in North Africa, putting Europe, which is separated from it only by the Mediterranean Sea, at high risk of invasion. ([more](#))

■ New host plant

[注意了！國內發生首例秋行軍蟲侵入芋頭田](#)

Attention! The first case of fall armyworms invading taro fields in China

udn 11.Apr.2023

國內發生首例芋頭秋行軍蟲案件，農委會台南區農改場籲請農民注意防範。台南區農改場今上午發布新聞稿說，今年3月嘉義大學植物醫學系師生於嘉義縣中埔鄉之芋頭田，採集到遭秋行軍蟲鑽蛀的地下球莖與蟲體，經中埔鄉農會植物醫師調查、確認後由本場及嘉義縣政府查報動植物防疫檢疫局於3月底公告，為國內首例芋頭危害案件。 ([more](#))

The first case of taro fall armyworm occurred in China, and the Tainan District Agricultural Reform Bureau of the Council of Agriculture appealed to farmers to take precautions. The Tainan District Agricultural Reform Center issued a press release this morning saying that in March this year, teachers and students of the Department of Plant Medicine of Chiayi University collected underground bulbs that were drilled by fall armyworms in a taro field in Zhongpu Township, Chiayi County, and passed through Zhongpu. After investigation and confirmation by the plant doctors of the Township Farmers Association, the farm and the Chiayi County Government reported to the Animal and Plant Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Bureau and announced at the end of March that it was the first taro damage case in China.

■ Management

[Agriculture pest that wreaked havoc overseas here to stay in NZ as growers concede eradication unlikely](#)

Stuff 15.Apr.2023

Fall army worm is unlikely to be eradicated from New Zealand. The industry will shift to long-term management of the pest next week. Eggs from the fall army worm were first found in Tauranga last year and it was found in the South Island for the first time in January. The fall army worm has caused millions of dollars worth of crop damage in China, the United States, Brazil and across Africa. ([more](#))

Xylella fastidiosa

Authority: Wells, Raju, Hung, Weisburg, Parl & Beemer
Gammaproteobacteria, Lysobacterales, Lysobacteraceae

● First finding (LB)

[First report of *Xylella fastidiosa* on almond \(*Prunus dulcis*\) in Lebanon](#)

Journal of Plant Pathology 25.Apr.2023

Xylella fastidiosa (*Xf*) has recently emerged as a phytosanitary threat in the Mediterranean Basin. Following its first appearance in southern Italy (Puglia region), the bacterium was reported in several southern European countries, including France, Spain, Portugal. ([more](#))

- Vectors (FR)

[No detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in cicadas \(Hemiptera, Cicadidae\) sampled in infected areas of Corsica \(France\)](#)

Journal of Applied Entomology 04.Apr.2023

Studies investigating *X. fastidiosa* (*Xf*) acquisition by cicadas are scarce. We collected 169 cicadas in infected areas throughout Corsica (France), belonging to the four species known from the island (*Cicada orni*; *Cicadetta fangoana*; *Tibicina corsica corsica* and *Tibicina nigronervosa*). All specimens were tested for the presence of *Xf* using a two-step PCR approach followed by Illumina sequencing. All specimens tested negative. So far, there is no indication that European cicadas are playing a significant role in the spread of *Xf*. ([more](#))

3.2.2 Quarantine pests^{10,11}

Annex II Part A

Bacteria

Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum

Authority: Safni, Cleenwerck, de Vos, Fegan, Sly & Kappler
Betaproteobacteria, Burkholderiales, Burkholderiaceae

- New finding (MX)

[First Report of Bacterial Wilt of Eggplant \(*Solanum melongena*\) Caused by *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* in Mexico](#)

Plant Disease 27.Apr.2023

Bacterial wilt caused by the *Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex (RSSC) is a major disease of solanaceous crops worldwide. In May 2022, symptoms of wilting, yellowing, and reduced growth were observed on eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) cv. Barcelona in a commercial greenhouse located in Culiacán, Sinaloa, Mexico. ([more](#))

Nematodes

Meloidogyne enterolobii

Authority: Yang & Eisenback
Chromadorea, Rhabditida, Meloidogynidae

- New host plant

[First Report of Root-Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on *Antirrhinum majus* in China](#)

Plant Disease 05.Apr.2023

Antirrhinum majus L. is a medicinal and ornamental herb commonly grown in China. In October 2022, *A. majus* plants were observed stunted in growth with yellowish leaves and containing a large number of galls on roots in a field in Nanning, Guangxi, China (N22°47'23.35", E108°23'4.26). ([more](#))

¹⁰ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019. OJ L 319, consolidated version 16.12.2021, p. 1–258

¹¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2285 of 14 December 2021 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of pests, prohibitions and requirements for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of plants, plant products and other objects, and repealing Decisions 98/109/EC and 2002/757/EC and Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/885 and (EU) 2020/1292. OJ L 458, 22.12.2021, p. 173–283.

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Cotton leaf curl Gezira virus

Viruses, Geminiviridae, Begomovirus

- First finding (IQ)

[First report of cotton leaf curl Gezira virus infecting *Malva parviflora* and in Iraq](#)

Australasian Plant Disease Notes 26.Apr.2023

In the current study, the complete genome of an isolate of cotton leaf curl Gezira virus (CLCuGeV), identified for the first time from *Malva parviflora* in Iraq, was amplified using rolling circle amplification and sequenced. ([more](#))

Potato yellow dwarf virus

Viruses, Rhabdoviridae, Alphanucleorhabdovirus

- New finding (US) and New host plant

[First report of Potato Yellow Dwarf Nucleorhabdovirus infecting pepper \(*Capsicum* spp.\) in Oklahoma](#)

Plant Disease 20.Apr.2023

Pepper (*Capsicum* spp.) is an economically valuable crop used for spice and fresh vegetable (Tripathi, and Kumar. 2019). The total acreage of peppers in Oklahoma is low (NASS, 2020), but there are numerous farms that are growing peppers for commercial production and provide fresh produce to local farmer's markets and processing industries. ([more](#))

Tomato ringspot virus

Viruses, Secoviridae, Nepovirus

- New finding (NL)

[Nieuwe vondst *Tomato ringspot virus*, vermoedelijk wijder verspreid](#)

**New finding of *Tomato ringspot virus*, suspected to be more widespread
Groenten Nieuws 24.Apr.2023**

Afgelopen maand is een nieuwe vondst gedaan van het *Tomato ringspot virus* (ToRSV) op 11 Phloxplanten. De NVWA leidt uit de nieuwe vondst af dat het virus wijder verspreid is dan eerst gedacht. De eerste vondst werd in 2018 gedaan. Het virus zou geografisch meer verspreid zijn, maar ook meer waardplanten hebben. ([more](#))

Last month a new discovery of the Tomato ringspot virus (ToRSV) was made on 11 Phlox plants. The NVWA deduces from the new finding that the virus is more widespread than previously thought. The first finding was made in 2018. The virus is thought to be more geographically widespread, as well as more host plants.

3.3. Articles of general interest

[A data driven method for prioritizing invasive species to aid policy and management](#)

Biological Invasions 06.Apr.2023

Natural resource managers overseeing large regions are often challenged by an overwhelmingly long list of invasive species to prioritize for management and surveys. Often, managers determine priorities through subjective experience and not regional data, contributing to a lack of objectivity, consistency, and transparency. ([more](#))

[Establishment and spread of non-native bark- and wood-boring beetles](#)

ACTA UNIVERSITATIS AGRICULTURAE SUECIAE 25.Apr.2023

One of the biggest threats to forest ecosystems globally is the introduction and establishment of non-native species. In Sweden alone, several bark- and woodboring beetles have established populations in recent years. Three of the recently established species are the larch bark beetle *Ips cembrae* and the larch longhorn beetle *Tetropium gabrieli* in southern Sweden, as well as the small spruce bark beetle *I. amitinus* northern Sweden. ([more](#))

[Phylogenetic Triage and Risk Assessment: How to Predict Emerging Phytoplasma Diseases](#)

Preprints 18.Apr.2023 – Not peer-reviewed

Phytoplasma diseases pose a substantial threat to diverse crops of agricultural importance. Management measures are usually implemented only after the disease has already occurred. Early detection of such phytopathogens, prior to disease outbreak, has rarely been attempted but would be highly beneficial for phytosanitary risk assessment, disease prevention and mitigation. ([more](#))

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Unit I.3 – European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, Italy

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Disclaimer

The selection of articles reflects the media and scientific coverage during the one-month time period in question. It does not reflect EFSA opinion on the articles' content, the presence of plant pests in a particular country and/or concerning a particular plant or plant product and/or endorsement of proposed control practices.

Note to the reader

This newsletter combines and substitutes the two pre-existent monthly publications: "Plant Health Newsletter: Media Monitoring" (58 published items) and "Plant Health Newsletter: Scientific Literature Monitoring" (37 published items), all accessible from the [EFSA Virtual Issue "Horizon Scanning for Plant Health"](#)

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For feedback on this Newsletter please write to

PLANTS@efsa.europa.eu