Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Economic Affairs

National Plant Protection Organization
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The Netherlands

October 2014 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

First finding of *Thrips setosus* at grower of *Hydrangea* plants for planting

Introduction

This report concerns the first official finding of *Thrips setosus* (Japanese flower thrips) in the Netherlands, which was identified on October 3, 2014. The origin of the finding is unknown but could be linked to imports of cuttings from Japan. The organism is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC and is not listed on the EPPO A1 or A2 list. The organism is known to occur in Japan and South Korea (see http://www.padil.gov.au/pests-and-diseases/pest/main/136443). The organism acts as a vector for *Tomato spotted wilt virus.* A preliminary pest risk analysis has been completed. Phytosanitary measures are pending further tracing investigations and survey to be completed within the coming weeks.

Reason for reporting First report
Identity of the pest *Thrips setosus* (Japanese flower thrips)
Categorization of the pest none
Location**:** Municipality Kudelstaart

Current Pest status
Transient, incidental finding on *Hydrangea* plants for planting, measures are pending further tracing investigations and a specific survey.

Previous Pest status
Absent, no pest records.

Pest significance

Date of finding

As part of inspections several plants with symptoms were identified and more than 10 adults were sampled on September 30, 2014. On October 3 the National Reference Centre confirmed the identity of the harmful organism.

Detection and identification

- how the pest was found: reported by the grower as part of the annual controls on quality.
- how the pest was detected and identified:

The sample consisted of several thrips adults in ethanol and thrips juveniles and adults on infested leaves. Morphological identification based on Zur Strassen, 2003 and Palmer, 1992. Additionally a female reference slide in the NPPO insect collection could confirm the match.

Impact

- Severity / extent of damage: (see figures 1 and 2)

High incidence of *Thrips setosus* whereby almost all plants were affected. Many adults and typical thrips suction damage (silvery spots, with dark punctures) on leaves were observed on *Hydrangea* plants both inside and outside the greenhouse. Also other weeds surrounding the crop were affected, notably *Lamium purpureum, Heracleum sphondylium, Urtica dioica.* No

infection was observed on any other plants in the vicinity of the company. The incursion has been present at the company since at least June this year and possibly longer.
- Host plants or articles concerned: both indoor and outdoor *Hydrangea* plants for planting,.
- Plant name: *Hydrangea (*Hortensia), *Lamium purpureum, Heracleum sphondylium, Urtica dioica.*
- Type of plant or mode of cultivation: indoors / outdoors crop.

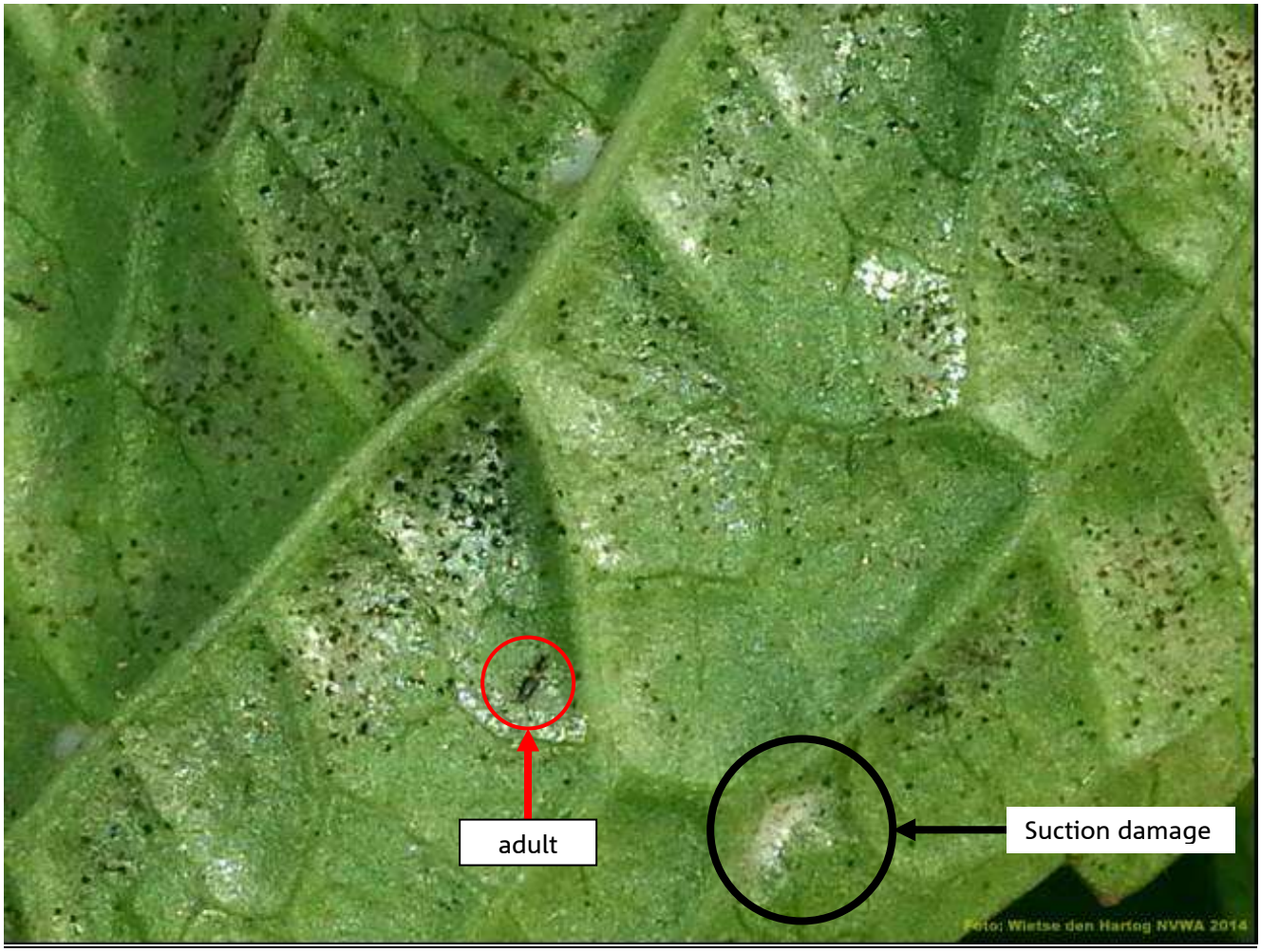

Figure 1: Adult and excrements of *Thrips setosus* on leaf of Hydrangea at affected grower

Figure 2a: Hydrangea crop at the grower with some leaf damage caused by Thrips setosus

Figure 2b: Feeding damage on flowers.

Origin of the pest
- possible origin of the pest:
The origin is unknown at present but is most likely associated with either cuttings originating from another grower or the growth medium used by the grower. Investigations are on-going.

Phytosanitary measures
A preliminary risk analysis has been completed (see attachment). Phytosanitary measures are pending depending on the outcome of further investigations and survey amongst other growers to be completed within the coming weeks.

References:
NPPO The Netherlands
Zur Strassen, R. 2003. Die terebranten Thysanopteren Europas. Die Tierwelt Deutschlands 74: 1-277.
Palmer, J. M. 1992. Thrips (Thysanoptera) from Pakistan to the Pacific: a review. Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) 61:1-76.
http://www.padil.gov.au/pests-and-diseases/pest/main/136443