



PEST REPORT - THE NETHERLANDS

Phytophthora lateralis – stem base rot- new finding in the Netherlands

Introduction

This report concerns the notification of a new finding of *Phytophthora lateralis* in The Netherlands in *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ivonne'. In 2005, *P. lateralis* was found for the first time in a nursery in Netherlands in the province of Drenthe on *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* plants. Following the finding on the nursery in 2005, all *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* plants have been destroyed. The subsequent annual surveys on *P. lateralis* were focused on the involved nursery and the vicinity of the nursery confirmed the absence of the disease. Recently however, a new isolated finding is identified on *C. lawsoniana* plants on a nursery in Almelo in the province Overijssel (eastern part of the country). There is no link between the two nurseries or the growers (distance between growers = 85 km). *P. lateralis* is not listed as a harmful organism for the European Community but is listed on the EPPO A1 list and is considered as a serious pest for especially *Chamaecyparis* spp. In 2006, a PRA is finished, but regulating *P. lateralis* is not discussed in the Standing Committee of Plant Health. Phytosanitary measures are taken to avoid the spread of the organism.

Pest status: Transient, under eradication

Host plants *Chamaecyparis* spp, *Taxus brevifolia*, *Actinidia deliciosa*

Geographical distribution in North-Western USA and Canada. In Europe, isolated findings are reported by France and The Netherlands. The further distribution in other EU member states is unknown.

Details of the finding

The infected plants were found in a field of 400 m² with about 2000 *Chamaecyparis* plants adjacent to a row *Thuja* plants. During inspection of the field, it was noticed that some plants showed visual symptoms like brown discoloration of the stem base and the plants were in a bad condition. The species was isolated on agar medium and PCR testing confirmed the presence of *P. lateralis*.



Origin of the finding

The *Chamaecyparis* 'Ivonne' plants were planted in 2007, on a small triangle shaped field that used to be grassland until 2007 and the grower did not add soil from other fields to the field. The grower is specialised in the production of plants with a specific shape. The plants are kept on the facility for 4 subsequent years, until the required shape is reached. As a result, no plants are delivered yet.

The nursery that has delivered the plants in 2007 has been visited to trace back related plant material of the 'Ivonne' lot. In 2005, the production of this lot started with cuttings from own mother stock plants. All plants of the same lot were delivered in 2007. The mother plants or other lots from the same mother plants were not available anymore, because the nursery has changed the production system in 2007. All old plant material including mother plants have been destroyed. The nursery is currently producing potted *Chamaecyparis* and *Buxus* plants on semi-concrete floor (lava stone) covered with non permeable root deck, and cuttings are no longer taken from own mother plants. No plant material was available that could be related to the infected 'Ivonne' lot.

According to delivery information, the nursery has delivered container plants of the same lot to 4 other facilities in 2007 and these were all visited. In all cases, container plants were delivered to end consumers in 2008, without being planted in a field. Most of the plants were delivered in mixed consignments to whole sale traders or garden centres in The Netherlands, but also one in Ireland. No material was available that could be related to the infected lot.

There is no evidence that the planting material was the source of the infection. However, other sources of infection could also not be found. Since the import of *Chamaecyparis* plants from third countries is prohibited in all member states, the risk of introduction of *P. lateralis* through the import of plant material is zero. However, the import of other host plants is not prohibited and also infected soil adjacent to roots of non-hosts is considered to be a pathway. The source of the infection remains uncertain.

Phytosanitary measures

The area of infection is determined by taking additional samples of plants without symptoms in the direct vicinity of the infected plants. Based on inspection in the field and based on the additional samples, the infected zone is limited to an area of about 100 m², including a buffer zone of 2 meter surrounding the infected plants (see annex 1). Within the buffer zone, samples were taken and found free from *P. lateralis*. The adjacent row with *Thuja* plants was also sampled and found free from *P. lateralis*. All *Chamaecyparis* plants in the infected zone and the buffer zone will be destroyed. Movement of the other *Chamaecyparis* plants is not allowed until at least 31 August 2011, and only after absence of the *P. lateralis* is confirmed. Movement of the *Thuja* plants located within 2 meter distance of the infected zone is only allowed after removal of the upper layer of soil (5 cm).

Hygienic measures must be taken to avoid the spread of spores through human activities, like through cleaning machinery, equipment and shoes.

The annual survey on *P. lateralis* will be continued.

References: NPPO of the Netherlands
PRA EPPO

ANNEX 1 Situation in the field



= infected zone (destruction of all plants)