
Netherlands Plant Protection Service

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
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agriculture, nature
and food quality

PEST REPORT

***Phytophthora ramorum* on *Fagus sylvatica* (European beech) trees in public green.**

This report concerns the first finding of *P. ramorum* on *Fagus sylvatica* trees (European beech) in the Netherlands. As part of routine monitoring surveillance, *P. ramorum* was positively identified from samples taken from bleeding cankers on two beech trees. The samples were taken on 7 and 8 June 2006. The findings concern two locations where earlier outbreaks of *P. ramorum* occurred on undergrowth of *Rhododendron* plants. At one location infected parts of *Rhododendron* plants have been removed and destroyed in preceding years. Nearby the same location earlier eight infested American oak trees (*Quercus rubra*) were found and reported. Continuation of inspection and sampling at both locations will take place to determine the extent of this outbreak. *P. ramorum* is a harmful organism for the European Community¹.

Officially declared pest status: Present, subject to official control, only in public green.

In public green found on:

- *Rhododendron* spp.
- *Quercus rubra*
- *Fagus sylvatica*

Phytosanitary Measures

Phytosanitary measures are foremost focused on ensuring pest freedom at places of production and eradication or containment in public green, in line with relevant Commission Decisions of the European Community (Commission Decisions 2002/757/EC and 2004/426/EC).

Impact and phytosanitary risk

Main concern of this finding is the capability of *P. ramorum* to infest a European native tree species in the Netherlands. It is presumed that *P. ramorum* is not capable of sporulating on beech trees, and therefore the infested trees are not considered a major phytosanitary risk to surrounding other host plants of *P. ramorum* in public green. This finding is not considered a phytosanitary risk to other countries.

At one site the infested tree will be removed as it endangers a house. At the other location the infested tree will be left for some time to allow for observations.

Detection and inspection methods

The pest was detected on beech as part of routine monitoring surveillance carried out by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service (see figure 1 for visual symptoms on one of the trees of *Fagus sylvatica* on which *P. ramorum* was detected). The identity of the fungus-like organism

¹ Commission decision 2004/426/EC amending Decision 2002/757/EC on provisional emergency phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Phytophthora ramorum* Werres, De Cock & Man in 't Veld.

was determined by molecular methods (real-time PCR) and culturing. In one case culturing has to be repeated.

Reference: NPPO of the Netherlands

**Figure 1: Stem cankers caused by *P. ramorum* (white arrows). Samples have been taken from the margin of the canker (drill holes indicated by black arrows).
(Mycology Section, Netherlands Plant Protection Service)**

