Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality

National Plant Protection Organization
POBox 9102
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The Netherlands

July 2023 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

1.1 UPDATE Finding of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* in surface water in the Netherlands (provinces Utrecht and Overijssel)

1.2 Executive summary

This report concerns an update on the official finding of *Ralstonia pseudosolancearum* (phylotype I) in the Netherlands in surface water, as part of the regular survey for Ralstonia sp. in surface water. In September and October 2021 surveillance was extended in those areas where the organism was isolated from two water samples taken in August 2020, and confirmed by the laboratory in February 2021. In the province of Overijssel water samples have been taken on 28 and 30 September 2021. In total 8 water samples tested positive for *Ralstonia pseudosolancearum* in this area. On 17 November 2021 four plants of *Solanum dulcamara,* growing at the waterside in this area were sampled and all tested positive for *R. pseudosolancearum*.

In the province of Utrecht water samples have been taken in the period 5-7 October 2021. In total 10 water samples tested positive for *R. pseudosolancearum*. On 8 December 2021 seven plants of *Solanum dulcamara,* growing at the waterside in this area were sampled and five tested positive for *R. pseudosolancearum.*

In both areas *R. pseudosolancearum* survived during the winter period.

On 21 June 2022 sampling was started in both areas, to investigate whether at this time of the year water samples will also test positive. In Overijssel the samples tested immediately positive, however in Utrecht the samples tested positive in July for the first time. It seems that water sampling for detecting R. pseudosolanacearum can start early summer.

Therefore in 2022 it was decided to survey also for *R. pseudosolanacearum* in other waterways in the Netherlands. This survey became part of our annual national survey in waterways for *R. solanacearum.* In total 1,305 water samples were collected in two times of the year. Twenty out of these 1,305 samples tested positive for *R. pseudosolanacearum.* In total 5 samples tested positive in the existing irrigation prohibition area, and 15 samples outside this area. These 15 samples were found upstream in the same waterway in Overijssel which was already tested positive in 2020 and 2021. The irrigation prohibition area has been adjusted accordingly.

The source of the infection is unclear.

The organism is listed as quarantine pest as part of EU regulation 2016/2031 .

Identity of the pest: (scientific name) *Ralstonia pseudosolancearum* (phylotype I).

Categorization of the pest: (Quarantine pest, EU Annex II A of implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072).

Location**:** Municipalities of Stichtse Vecht (Utrecht) and Hellendoorn (Overijssel).

Reason of the notification: Updated report.

How the pest was found (e.g. (2) Survey related to an eradicated or existing outbreak of the harmful organism.

Information on the infested area, severity and source of the outbreak – summary

Two water ways in the municipalities of Stichtse Vecht and Hellendoorn were tested positive for *R. pseudosolancearum* in 2021 and 2022.

Official phytosanitary measures - summary No official phytosanitary measures will be taken. The bacterium can survive winter conditions in surface water, presumably in *S. dulcamara* in the Netherlands. Surveillance for *R. pseudosolancearum* has become a permanent part of the surface water survey in the Netherlands as the collected water samples will be determined at species level. In any case there is an integral prohibition for the use of surface water for seed potatoes in the Netherlands and a prohibition for using surface water for cultivation of all types of potatoes in areas where EU regulated *Ralstonia* species are known to occur in specific surface water areas.	
1.3 Type of notification	(3) Updated notification
2.1 Single Authority	Notification from the National Plant Protection Organization of the Netherlands – Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
2.2 Official contact	M.S.W Gerrits +31651229622 Email: m.s.w.gerrits@nvwa.nl
3. Location of presence of harmful organism	3.1 Provinces; Utrecht and Overijssel
3.2 Map of the location.	
4. Reason of the notification and pest status	4.1 (1) First presence of the harmful organism in surface water. Update report
4.3 Previous Pest status	(14) Transient: actionable, under surveillance.
4.4 Current Pest status	Present: not widely distributed and under official control.
5. Information relating to the finding.	5.1 How the harmful organism was found. (2) Survey related to an eradicated outbreak of a harmful organism in water samples taken in August 2020.
5.2 Date of finding.	1 March 2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis	Water samples were collected by filling tubes with surface water in duplo at selected sampling points.
5.4 Laboratory	Mr Erik Souer Tel: +31 6 15430806 Email: e. souer@nvwa.nl NIVIP -National Reference Laboratory - NPPO of the Netherlands
5.5 Diagnostic method.	Select (1) According to peer reviewed protocol; EU-Directive 2006/63/EC and EPPO diagnostic standard PM7/21, phylotype determination of *Ralstonia solanacearum* phylotype.

5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity	1 March 2021
6. Information related to the area, severity of the finding and source of the finding	6.1. Open water way
6.2. Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Indication of one or more of the following options: (2) Open air – other (2.5) other, Surface water
6.3. Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity.	*Solanum dulcamara* grows at the waterside in both waterways
6.4. Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	In 2021, four plants of *S. dulcamara* in the Municipality Hellendoorn (Overijssel) and five plants of *S. dulcamara* in the Municipality Stichtse Vecht (Utrecht)
6.5. Vectors present in the area.	Not applicable
6.6. Severity of the outbreak.	*R. pseudosolanacearum* is detected in two waterways in the province of Overijssel and Utrecht. In 2022 the irrigation prohibition area is extended because 15 samples tested positive outside of the irrigation prohibition area installed in 2021. These 15 samples were found upstream in the same waterway in Overijssel which was already tested positive in 2020 and 2021.
6.7. Source of the outbreak.	Source of the outbreak is unknown.
7. Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1. Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	No official phytosanitary measures will be taken in the waterways. In any case there is an integral prohibition for the use of surface water for seed potatoes in the Netherlands and a prohibition for using surface water for cultivation of all types of potatoes in areas where EU regulated *Ralstonia* species are known to occur in specific surface water areas.
7.2. Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary	

measures. In case of temporary measures, indication of their expected duration.	
7.3. Identification of the area covered by official phytosanitary measures — indicate the method used to identify the area covered by official phytosanitary measures. Provide the results of the surveys that have been carried out.	A map with the areas in which it is prohibited to the use surface water for irrigation can be found on the (Dutch) NVWA website Gebieden met verbod op gebruik oppervlaktewater | Plantenziekten en plagen | NVWA
7.4. Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Containment, only in the waterways.
7.5. Measures affecting the movement of goods. Indication of one of the following options	(2) measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.
7.6. Specific surveys.	For 2023, surveillance for detection of *R. pseudosolanacearum* is included in the annual surface water survey.
8.Pest risk analysis/assessment	(1) Pest risk analysis is not required (harmful organism is listed in Annex II of Regulation 2019/2072, or is subject to measures adopted pursuant to Article 30 of Regulation 2016/2031).
9.Links to relevant websites, other sources of information.	https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/pest-reporting/contents/pest-reports