



December 2013 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

Update pest status

***Anthonomus eugenii* (Pepper Weevil) eradicated in the Netherlands**

Introduction

This pest report confirms absence of *Anthonomus eugenii* (Pepper Weevil) for the Netherlands, based on completion of eradication measures and intensive surveillance. The first outbreak of *Anthonomus eugenii* in the Netherlands in six *Capsicum annuum* fruit production facilities in the Westland greenhouse area was reported in two pest reports (August 2012 and January 2013).

The August 2012 pest report described the first outbreak of *Anthonomus eugenii* in *Capsicum annuum* fruit production at four greenhouses and the January 2013 pest report another two greenhouses. All greenhouses were situated close to each other and a surveillance area was installed of 4 by 9 km around the affected facilities.

The harmful organism is not yet included in the annexes of EU Directive 2000/29/EC, however inclusion is foreseen for 2014. *Anthonomus eugenii* is listed on the EPPO A1 list.

Reason for reporting: Eradication.

Identity of the pest: *Anthonomus eugenii* Cano (Pepper weevil)

Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Anthonomini

Categorization of the pest: EPPO A1 (1995)

Location: 6 greenhouses with *Capsicum annuum* fruit production facilities, located close to each other, in the northern part of the Westland greenhouse area

Pest status

Absent, eradicated.

Pest significance (detailed description)

Date of finding: In July and August 2012 the pest was found at four bell pepper greenhouse facilities (see First pest report of August 30, 2012). In October and November 2012 the pest was found in two other bell pepper greenhouses in the same area (see second pest report of January, 2013).

Impact

Severity / extent of damage:

Six greenhouse facilities for the production of bell pepper fruits were found infested with *Anthonomus eugenii*. In three companies extensive damage was observed, consisting of smaller and prematurely aborted fruits. In the other three companies only single larvae were found in collected fruits and/or beetles were caught on pheromone traps without significant damage.

Host plants or articles concerned: fruits of *Capsicum* L.

Phytosanitary measures

In July 2013 a pest risk analysis was completed (see:

<http://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/english/dossier/pest-risk-analysis/evaluation-of-pest-risks>).

Based on this pest risk analysis, measures are considered necessary to ensure eradication and prevent future introductions of the pest.

All phytosanitary measures at infested *Capsicum* fruit production facilities were aimed at eradication. In order to prevent further spread, measures included application of pesticides, destruction and secured removal of the crop (and growing medium) at all affected facilities. Within a surveillance area of 4 by 9 km around the affected facilities a specific surveillance was carried out in about 50 *Capsicum annuum* fruit production facilities by intensive crop inspection and placing of pheromone traps and 6 *Solanum melongena* fruit production facilities by only placing pheromone traps. Also pheromone traps were placed in several production facilities of *Solanum lycopersicum* fruits and growing facilities of ornamental Solanaceae plants in a surveillance area of 2 by 3 km around the affected facilities.

Monitoring in the surveillance area with specific pheromone traps in empty greenhouses and greenhouses with new crops confirmed eradication.

Import monitoring

The origin of the outbreak is still unknown. Most likely, the pest was introduced with imported *Capsicum* fruits from a country where the pest occurs in view of nearby locations with imported *Capsicum* fruits. Currently, *Capsicum* fruit is not subject to phytosanitary import inspection.

Therefore imported *Capsicum* fruits from countries where the pest is known to occur, were inspected at the same time phytosanitary measures were carried out in the surveillance area.

At the moment, checks are carried out on imported *Capsicum* fruits, which is extended also to countries where the pest is not known to occur, and other Solanaceae fruits and plants.

References:

NPPO The Netherlands