



PEST REPORT - THE NETHERLANDS

***Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* on ornamental *Prunus laurocerasus* plants for planting**

**Plant Protection Service of
the Netherlands**
Division of Plant Health Advice &
International Affairs

Geertjesweg 15
6706 EA Wageningen
P.O.Box 9102
6700 HC Wageningen
www.minlnv.nl/pd

Introduction

In the course of 2008 an increasing incidence of foliar spot diseases on *Prunus laurocerasus* was reported by growers. In November 2008 samples of six companies were taken which have recently all been fully confirmed positive for *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*. This disease is regulated as a harmful organism (as the synonym *X. campestris* pv. *pruni*) as part of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, as amended (see Annex II A section II).

Officially declared pest status for the Netherlands:

Present – in some parts of the area only on *Prunus laurocerasus*

A limited number of plants is affected in both northern and southern parts of the Netherlands. However, based on reports of increasing problems with foliar spot diseases by growers of *Prunus laurocerasus*, it is presumed that the pest is also present in other parts of the Netherlands.

Phytosanitary Measures

Findings only concern growers of ornamental *Prunus laurocerasus* species. During the present growing season an intensive survey will be completed to determine the distribution of the disease in the Netherlands. Relevant phytosanitary measures will be applied for preventing movement of infested plants for planting.

Impact and phytosanitary risk

Growers have difficulty in managing the disease, as no foliar pesticides are registered against bacterial diseases. Trees are not heavily affected but affected trees are not marketable. Plants for planting in trade may form a risk for further spread. It is, however, presumed that similar undetected occurrence of the disease may also be the case in other Member States of the European Community.

Detection and inspection methods

The disease was detected following samples submitted by growers to Naktuinbouw and following testing by the Plant Protection Service of the Netherlands. The identity of the bacterium was determined on the basis of the relevant EPPO protocol (EPPO PM 7/64 (1), 2006), notably fatty acid analysis, biochemical tests and pathogenicity testing. Additionally the isolates were tested positive with Immunofluorescence. Unavailability of relevant testing plants in December caused delay in full confirmation of the disease.

Reference: NPPO of the Netherlands