



July 2013 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

National Plant Protection Organization
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The Netherlands

Incidental finding of PSTVd (Potato spindle tuber viroid) in tomato fruit production facility

Introduction

A grower had observed symptoms on several plants of tomato in one row of a tomato fruit production greenhouse. A sample submitted by the grower was tested positive by a laboratory in a neighbouring Member State at the end of June 2013.

This report concerns the first official incidental finding of PSTVd in a tomato fruit production greenhouse in the Netherlands as based on information verified by an inspector on July 5, 2013. No symptoms were observed by the NPPO, because the grower had destroyed and removed the affected row of plants from the greenhouse. Investigations are ongoing to determine the origin of the finding. The organism is listed as a harmful organism in annex IAI of EU directive 2000/29/EC and is listed on the EPPO A2 list.

Reason for reporting Updated situation.

Identity of the pest (scientific name) Potato spindle tuber viroid

Categorization of the pest (Quarantine pest, EU Annex IAI, EPPO A2)

Location: one tomato fruit production in the south eastern part of the Netherlands.

Pest status

Transient in ornamentals, no findings in 2012.

Absent from the entire potato production chain (*Solanum tuberosum*) based on specific surveillance.

Incidental finding in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) fruit production in 2013, under eradication.

Not known to occur in pepper (*Capsicum* L.).

Pest significance (detailed description)

Date of finding

Official verification of the finding took place during a visit of an inspector to the affected tomato greenhouse on July 5, 2013.

Detection and identification

- how the pest was found: **Incidental finding reported by grower**

Specialists of the National Reference Centre of the NPPO were informed of a positive testing result of PSTVd in tomato by a laboratory of the NPPO of a neighbouring Member State on June 28, 2013. A sample had been submitted by the grower in the Netherlands to this laboratory. As part of an official visit of an inspector to the greenhouse on July 5, 2013 the Dutch grower confirmed having observed symptoms in one row of plants since May 2013. All affected plants and the entire row of associated plants had been removed by the grower by the end of June and no symptoms were observed by the grower thereafter.

- how the pest was detected and identified

A positive test result based on PCR-testing was confirmed by the laboratory of the NPPO of a neighbouring Member State. The identity of the viroid was initially determined by RT-PCR using VID primers and pospi1 primerset, followed by sequencing.

Impact

Severity / extent of damage:

The impact is limited and concerns several plants in a row of 366 plants in a tomato fruit production greenhouse.

Origin of the pest

Possible origin of the pest is unknown and trace-back is on-going. It is unlikely that tomato seed is the source of the outbreak, in view of the relatively late appearance of symptoms in the crop.

Phytosanitary measures

All affected plants including the associated row of plants have been removed. The affected greenhouse has been placed under quarantine, and hygiene measures have been imposed.

References:

NPPO The Netherlands