



## February 2014 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

National Plant Protection Organization  
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### **Suspicion of *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis* (Cmm) Two tomato fruit production companies and one propagation company of tomato plants**

#### **Introduction**

Based on preliminary testing results, the occurrence of Cmm was suspected at a fruit production company of tomatoes on February 10, 2014. Final confirmation of the pest identity is pending. It is possible that infected material was delivered by a propagation company to the fruit production company. Suspect visual symptoms were also observed at another fruit production company which received related lots. The possible source of the infestation is under investigation.

It is the first time since 2008 that occurrence of this harmful organism is suspected at a propagation company of tomato plants (NPPO pest report January, 2008). The organism is listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC and is listed on the A2 list.

Reason for reporting: Updated situation

Identity of the pest: *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis*

Categorization of the pest: EU Annex II AII, EPPO A2

Location: not relevant – greenhouse conditions.

#### **Pest status**

Transient, under eradication.

#### **Pest significance (detailed description)**

##### Date of finding

The grower reported symptoms on February 5, 2014.

##### Detection and identification

- how the pest was found: The fruit production company reported fall-out of large numbers of plants to the NPPO. A second fruit production company also reported fall-out of some plants. This second company received plants from the same propagator.

- how the pest was detected and identified:

EPPO standard PM 7/42 (2) for Cmm is used. Bio-assay confirmatory testing is pending.

##### Impact

- Severity / extent of damage:

##### Fruit production company

Symptoms were observed throughout the young start-up crop of a fruit production company. The entire crop will be removed and destroyed by the grower. Since 2007 incidental findings of Cmm are reported by fruit production companies. The incidence is gradually reducing year by year from 11 companies in 2007 to one company in 2013.

##### Propagation company

No damage was observed. It is possible that infected material was delivered by the propagation

company to the fruit production company. Based on a risk evaluation no other suspect material is still present at the company.

- Host plants or articles concerned (if appropriate):  
plant name: *Solanum lycopersicum*

Type of plant or mode of cultivation:  
two fruit production companies and one propagation company. Both indoor, compartmentalised cultivation.

#### Origin of the pest

- possible origin of the pest:

It is suspected that tomato plants delivered by a propagation company could be the source of the outbreak at the fruit production company. No visual symptoms were observed on any tomato plants at the propagation company. Only few tomato plant lots are still available at the propagation company, all from other seed lots. In view of the high standards at the propagation company in terms of hygiene, irrigation systems, compartmentalisation and procedures, the origin of the infestation is probably not related to the propagation company itself. The seed lots used for the plants concerned are being tested. It should be noted, however, that confirmatory testing of seed lots with low levels of Cmm contamination is difficult.

#### **Phytosanitary measures**

At the propagation company, no suspect lots are present. Compartments where affected plants were located will be cleared and disinfected. Trace-back of all relevant delivered lots which may have been in contact with the suspect plants to other tomato fruit production companies has been completed. Three deliveries concerned tomato fruit production companies in one other Member State. The authorities of the Member State have been informed.

#### **References:**

NPPO The Netherlands

NPPO pest report 2008

(see <http://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/english/dossier/pest-reporting/pest-reports>)