

EPPO Alert List: Added in 1999 – Deleted in 2000

Reasons for deletion

The association of the pest Olive phytoplasma disease with a phytoplasma has not been shown. In 2000, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Olive phytoplasma diseases

Why	These phytoplasma diseases of olive came to our attention because two 'similar' reports were made approximately at the same time from Italy and Spain. Symptoms appear very similar, but it cannot be said whether these diseases are caused by the same or related phytoplasmas.
Where	A phytoplasma disease has been reported in 1996 from many olive orchards of central Italy. In Spain, it is reported in 1998 that a new disease has been observed since 1993 in several olive orchards near Badajóz (Extremadura).
On which plants	Olive trees (<i>Olea europaea</i>).
Damage	In Spain: affected trees showed abnormal shoots, shortened internodes and proliferation (witches' broom). In Italy: diseased plants showed dwarfed branches with shortened internodes, leaf deformation and chlorosis, proliferation of axillary buds with witches' broom.
Possible identity	In both cases, PCR analysis revealed the presence of phytoplasmas in diseased olive trees. In Spain, it is noted that it belongs to the stolbur group. In Italy, the name: olive witches' broom disease has been given.
Transmission	It is suspected that the cicadellid <i>Hyalesthes obsoletus</i> can transmit the phytoplasma in the field.
Pathway	Plants for planting (fruits?) of olive from Italy and Spain.
Possible risks	Olive is a significant crop for the whole Mediterranean area. In Italy, severe economic problems are reported.
Source(s)	Del Serrone, P.; Barba, M. (1997) Olive witches' broom: a new olive disorder associated with phytoplasmas. Abstract of a paper presented at the ISHS XVII International Symposium on virus diseases of fruit trees, Bethesda, US, 1997-06-23/27, p 119. Font, I.; Abad, P.; Dally, E.L.; Davis, R.E.; Jordá, C. (1998) Nueva enfermedad en el olivar español. Phytoma España, no. 102, 211-212.

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Panel review date -

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