

How to identify the symptoms of *Xylella fastidiosa*?

The **bacterium** lives and reproduces **in the xylem vessels of the plant**. The vessels will be **blocked**, making it harder for the water to get into the leaves. Symptoms usually appear as **wilting**, first on the edge of the leaves and then, gradually over the entire plant.



After infection, many plant species only become sick after several years. In sensitive plant species, the disease symptoms can appear within one growing season.



Can you help us?

Xylella fastidiosa can cause **great damage** to cultivated plants, the urban landscape and nature. Therefore, the bacterium is included in the **EPPO A2 list** and control measures are imposed by the **European plant disease law** so that the organism **cannot establish itself and spread**.

Much trouble is avoided by an **early detection**. Hence, it is important to report if you have seen symptoms that may have been caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*.

If you spot **wilting symptoms**:

- Take a photo and note the precise location.
- Place the photo with the data on [waarnemingen.be/species/Q-organismen](https://www.waarnemingen.be/species/Q-organismen)

More info?

Johan Van Vaerenbergh

ILVO – Plant Science Unit

Burg. Van Gansberghelaan 96

9820 Merelbeke

Johan.vanvaerenbergh@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

Tel. 09 272 24 76



project BEWARE&NOTE (RT 19/03),
financed by FOD



In collaboration with EUPHRESKO and EPPO www.eppo.int

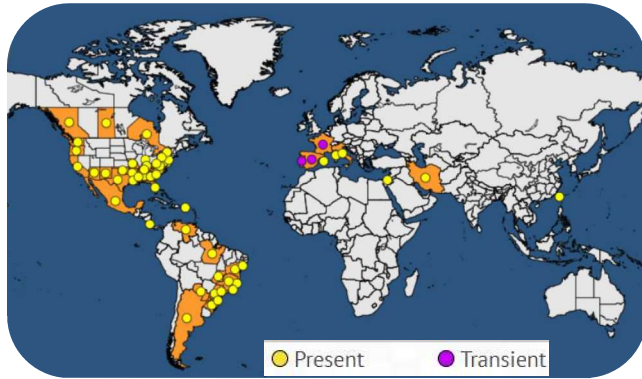
Attention!

Xylella fastidiosa

Harmful to more than 300
plant species



Distribution



Xylella fastidiosa has been known for more than 100 years, on the American continent, on almond and citrus trees. In the EU, the first observation was made on olive trees in **southern Italy** (2013, Apulia). Since then, the disease has also been found in **Corsica**, along the **French Côte d'Azur**, in the **Balearic Islands**, **Spain** (Alicante) and **Portugal** (near Porto). A climate with dry summer and mild winter is favourable for the disease. *Xylella* was also intercepted in **Belgium**, **the Netherlands**, **France** and **Germany**. The infected coffee plants, olive trees and oleanders were destroyed in time.

The bacterium is introduced into the plant by various types of small **insects**. In Europe, the meadow froghopper, *Philaenus spumarius*, is known as a vector.

On a global scale, **trade** is the most important cause of spread. The bacterium has repeatedly intercepted in Europe in infected plants from the American continent. The disease has not been recognized for a long time.



Management



Phytosanitary measures

- Certified plant material free from *Xylella fastidiosa* and cicadas (plant passport, phytosanitary certificate)
- Destruction of infected plants and check the environment for new infections

Chemical control of cicadas (only for professionals)

- Indoxacarb
- Lambda-cyhalothrin
- Thiacloprid



Host plants

There are many variants of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Therefore, the bacterium has many host plants. In the infected areas of Europe, the disease is mainly observed in **olive trees**, **the myrtle-leaf milkwort** (*Polygala myrtifolia*), **almond trees** and various types of **cherry** (*Prunus*). Deciduous trees such as **plane tree**, **oak** and **elm** are more affected in the northern areas.

Different plant species can be **carriers** of the bacteria and show few or no symptoms.

