

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (1169) – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Closing note on an outbreak of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Germany (Brandenburg)
1.2 Executive summary	<p>A grower reported unknown symptoms on tomato plants of one variety to the plant protection service. The tomatoes were grown in a foil tunnel in organic farming. Samples were taken and tested in the official laboratory of Brandenburg. <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> 'San Marzano' was tested positive for Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV). Samples of directly adjacent tomato varieties and aubergines were tested negative. The infested tomato variety was grown from seeds that have been purchased by a German trader with an Austrian plant passport. According to the plant passport information, the seeds originate in another Member State. Trace-back and forward investigations are ongoing. Official eradication measure were taken. The movement of fruits and plant material was forbidden and destruction by burning was ordered. Also, compost that could have been contaminated was disposed of in an incineration plant. Used boxes were disinfected and further hygiene measures were carried out. Further measures are possible in the course of the further investigation of this case.</p> <p>ToBRFV has been regulated as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP) since January 2025, so eradication measures and specific surveys are no longer carried out.</p>
2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons	
2.1 Notification from	Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Institute for National and International Plant Health, Germany
3 Location	
3.1 Location	In Brandenburg

4 Reason of the notification and the pest status	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	Confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany concerned, in which its presence was previously unknown.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present: not widely distributed and under official control
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Absent: Pest eradicated
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: not widely distributed and under official control
5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Information submitted by professional operators, laboratories or other persons The owner of the infested plants informed the plant protection service because he did not know the reason for the symptoms. The tomato plants did not show typical leave symptoms but fruits were unevenly coloured with streaky red coloration and showed rugose like symptoms. The concerned variety 'San Marzano' was slightly behind the other varieties in growth.
5.2 Date of finding:	10-08-2020
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Tomato leaves of variety 'Black Plum' and 'San Marzano' have been sampled. Both varieties were grown directly adjacent. Remaining seeds will be tested by sowing and testing the seedlings. Further testing is planned.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landesamt für Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft und Flurneuordnung Referat 43 Saatenanerkennung, Phytopathologie OT Wünsdorf – Brandenburg 15806 Zossen
5.5 Diagnostic method	- Real-time PCR according to Menzel & Winter (2020), Primer/Son (ToBRFV qs1, ToBRFV qas2, ToBRFV p1) - Sequence analysis (Primer: Menzel et al., 2019) - EPPO PM 7/XXX draft 20-25576 COUNTRY CONSULTATION

5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	02-09-2020
6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	90 m ²
6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air – other, other plant or part of a plant or plant product
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	1 plant
6.5 Severity of the outbreak.	The severity of the outbreak cannot finally be described. Sampling and testing is not finished so far. Two further operators with relations to the concerned grower have been included in the investigations.
6.6 Source of the outbreak	The infested plants were grown from seeds with an Austria plant passport. According to that plant passport the seeds originate in another Member State. The investigations are ongoing.
7 Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	<p>Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. No demarcated area was established. Further investigations were carried out. Remaining seeds were tested by sowing the seeds and testing the plants. Further 20 varieties were tested. Transport boxes were disinfected. The infestation was restricted to one foil tunnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movement of fruits and plant material was prohibited - Destruction by burning in an incineration plant was ordered, including compost that is possibly infested - Transport of infested material to the incineration plant in closed big bags that are burned afterwards - Hygiene measures
7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	02-09-2020
7.3 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.4 Specific surveys.	Yes
8 Pest risk analysis/assessment	Pest risk assessment is not required.

Since 2025, ToBRFV is not classified as quarantine pest anymore but is regulated as RNQP.