Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (2354) – closing note

1	**General information**	
1.1	Title	Closing note on an outbreak of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) in Germany (Brandenburg)
1.2	Executive summary	In 2023, ToBRFV was detected in the annual pest specific survey. Plants of *Capsicum* 'Pusztagold' were found to be infested in one small greenhouse. The plants were grown in soil for fruit production. Other *Capsicum* varieties grown at the same production site were tested negative. Update March 2024: Instead of 40 plants, two plants of the variety Pusztagold were infested. **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.**
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, in which it has been previously present but eradicated.
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.	Present: under eradication
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.	Pest related official survey. The grower was selected randomly in the annual survey program.
5.2 Date of finding:	16-08-2023
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 25-07-2023 First sampling on 25th July 2023: At least one leaf was taken from each *Capsicum* plant in the greenhouse (3 varieties) and outdoors (7 varieties). All varieties were sampled and tested separately. Second sampling on 17th August 2023: Sampling was done as before, including 4 tomato varieties that were grown in the same greenhouse. An additional mixed sample was taken from 7 *Solanum lycopersicum* varieties in a different greenhouse, including 200 leaves in total. The remaining seeds were also sampled and tested. Update March 2024: The result of the testing in July 2023 was negative for the outdoor area, the neighboring greenhouse, the other tomato varieties, 2 further *Capsicum* varieties in the infested greenhouse and seeds. On 19th September 2023, further samples were taken from *Capsicum* varieties with the following result: 29 plants of the infested variety Puztagold were tested individually, 2 of them were positive. The other 2 varieties Yolo Wonder and Pantos ‘were tested negative.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landesamt für Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft und Flurneuordnung (LELF) Referat 43 Saatenanerkennung, Phytopathologie Steinplatz 1 15806 Zossen Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/146 (2) - Tomato brown rugose fruit virus

5.6	Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	16-08-2023
6	**Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1	Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Physically closed conditions: greenhouse Plant already planted, not to be reproduced or moved
6.2	Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Solanum lycopersicum* (300 pce), *Capsicum* sp. (140 pce)
6.3	Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Capsicum* sp. 'Pusztagold' (2 pce) Update March 2024: All individual plants of the variety Pusztagold were tested. 2 plants of the variety Pusztagold were tested positive. The varieties Pantos and Yolo Wonder tested negative.
6.4	Severity of the outbreak:	The symptoms of *Capsicum* 'Pusztagold' are only slightly developed. Only one plant showed stronger symptoms. A reduction in yield was not observed. Apparently, the infestation spreads from an infestation spot inside the greenhouses, despite the implementation of hygiene measures.
6.5	Source of the outbreak	The source of the outbreak is unknown. The remaining seeds of all varieties were tested negative.
7	**Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1	Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. Those measures are taken inside the demarcated area. Measures were taken according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1032. The whole *Capsicum* growing area was demarcated as infested area. The infested plants will be destroyed at the end of the harvest season. It is forbidden to bring plant material out of the greenhouse apart from the fruits. Hygiene measures are implemented for the staff, facilities, machinery and tools. The greenhouse will be disinfected after the growing season. It is forbidden to grow certain plants in the greenhouse and plants whose roots are harvested or to whose harvested parts soil may be attached because the infested plants were grown in the soil. Update March 2024: Hygiene measures were continued. Two infested *Capsicum* plants were destroyed immediately after the positive test result.

7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	17-08-2023
7.3 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	120 m²
7.4 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.5 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.
7.6 Specific surveys.	No
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.**