Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

JKI, Messeweg 11/12, 38104 Braunschweig, Germany

Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

www.julius-kuehn.de

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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (2555) - update

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Update on an outbreak of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Germany (Thuringia)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2024, *Ralstonia solanacearum* was detected in the national survey in Thuringia in a ware potato lot. In October 2023, the sample was taken from potatoes without symptoms and stored until laboratory investigations. The plant protection service supposed that the source of the infection may be irrigation water. The potatoes were irrigated with surface water. Further investigations of the surface water are planned for next summer. Eradication measures have been imposed. Update November 2024: Water samples were taken from the river Unstrut and analysed. The Unstrut was the source of irrigation water for the infested potato field in 2023. *Ralstonia solanacearum* was identified in the water samples in the area between Herbsleben and Sömmerda (about 25 km). The river Unstrut is now declared to be contaminated in this area and designated as an infested zone. Irrigation of potatoes and other solanaceous crops with water from the designated river section was prohibited. **Update 2025: In 2025, water samples were taken again from the river Unstrut and analysed. The Unstrut was the source of irrigation water for the infested potato field in 2023. *Ralstonia solanacearum* was identified in the water samples again in the area between Herbsleben and Rossleben-Wiehe (about 70 km). The river Unstrut is now declared to be contaminated in this area and designated as an infested zone. Irrigation of potatoes and other solanaceous crops with water from the designated river section was prohibited. The irrigation ban was announced by means of a general decree in 2025.**

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 Thuringia
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 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: at low prevalence, under eradication, in specific parts where host plants are grown The river Unstrut is now declared to be contaminated between Herbsleben and Roßleben-Wiehe and designated as an infested zone.
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication, few occurrences
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication, few occurrences
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. Pest found during official surveys according to Art. 3 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1193.
5.2 Date of finding:	15-03-2024
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 23-10-2023 The sample was taken, frozen and stored during the survey. It was not processed until spring.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Thüringer Landesamt für Landwirtschaft und Ländlichen Raum – Referat 23 Pflanzenschutz und Saatgut Naumburger Straße 98 07743 Jena Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols

5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	15-03-2024
6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	3.5 ha
6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air - production area: field (arable, pasture) Other plant, part of a plant or plant product Open air – other: river
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Solanum tuberosum*
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Solanum tuberosum* (3.5 ha) River water of a section of appr. 25 km affected **<u>Update April 2026:</u> About 70 km river section are affected.**
6.5 Severity of the outbreak.	No symptoms were observed. Only the laboratory sample was taken.
6.6 Source of the outbreak	The plant protection service supposed that the source of infection may be irrigation water. The potatoes have been irrigated with surface water. Further investigations were planned for summer 2024 by sampling surface water. <u>Update November 2024:</u> River water of a section of appr. 25 km was tested positive. **<u>Update 2025:</u> River water of a section of appr. 70 km was tested positive.**
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. Hygiene measures are taken including cleaning and disinfection. Movement of the infested lot is prohibited and restrictions are imposed on the movement of the probably infested lots. <u>Update November 2024:</u> The river Unstrut is now declared to be contaminated in the concerned area and designated as an infested zone. Irrigation of potatoes and other solanaceous crops with water from the designated section of the river was prohibited.

7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	2024-03-18
7.3 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	4 ha In addition, the contaminated river section of appr. 25 km **<u>Update April 2026:</u> about 70 km river section affected**
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.	Yes, survey of potatoes, *Solanaceae* weeds and surface water.
8 Pest risk analysis/assessment	Pest risk assessment is not required. Harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.