Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Eradication of an outbreak of *Thekopsora minima* in Germany (Brandenburg)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2019, *Thekopsora minima* has been found on *Vaccinium* plants in a garden center. The plants were intended for final consumers. The symptoms were detected during inspections for the national monitoring program. Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. The infested lot will be destroyed and samples have been taken from a second lot in the same premises. ***Thekopsora minima* was found in another garden center appr. 20 km east of the first garden center. 2 further *Vaccinium* varieties from the same supplier were found to be infested. In addition, the pathogen was found at a third location appr. 20 km south of the first garden center. It concerned the same varieties than at the 2 locations before that were delivered from the same supplier to a nursery. All these plants were prepared for final consumers and originated from the same supplier.** **The remaining plants in the garden centers and the nursery were destroyed. Afterwards, investigations were carried out in various branches of the retail chain in Brandenburg and at other retailers. No further infested plants have been found.** **The outbreaks at these locations are considered eradicated.**
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

2.2 Official contact:	Katrin Kaminski, Tel: +49(0)39 46 47 7515, outbreaks@julius-kuehn.de
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 its presence was previously unknown.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	**Absent: pest eradicated**
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: not widely distributed and under official control
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 inspection was done in the national monitoring program. The plants showed symptoms and samples were taken. **Update 2022: The investigations were intensified based on the finding of *T. minima* in the first garden center.**
5.2 Date of finding:	17-09-2019
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Several leaves with symptoms were taken. **Update 2022: On 16th October 2019, samples were taken at the second garden center. The result of the sequencing was available on 14th November 2019. Sampling at the third location was carried out on 19th November 2019 and *T. minima* was identified by sequencing on 3rd December 2019.**
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	Molecular methods including sequencing
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	30-09-2019
6 **Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air – garden center Plant to be (re)planted or reproduced
6.2 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Vaccinium*
6.3 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Vaccinium* (21 pce) Cultivars 'Bluecrop', 'Bluetta', 'Darrow' and 'Hardyblue'
6.4 Source of the outbreak	The plants were delivered from Saxony. Trace-back investigations were carried out.
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. No demarcated area was established. The 9 remaining plants have been packed securely and removed from the premises. The plants will be destroyed. 11 plants of the same lot were already sold. Trace-forward of these plants is not possible. 5 plants of a different variety in the premises have been sampled. **<u>Update 2022:</u> The infested plants were destroyed and in 2020, 2021 and 2022, surveys were carried out without any further findings of *T. minima*. The official phytosanitary measures were completed because the pathogen is considered eradicated at the concerned locations.**
7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	30-09-2019
7.3 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.4 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import or movement within the Union of goods.
7.5 Specific surveys.	**Yes, in 2022, no further suspicious plants were found at the inspected branches of the retail chain (14 locations in total).**

8	**Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Express-Pest risk analysis exists (updated on 22nd July 2022): https://pflanzengesundheit.julius-kuehn.de/dokumente/upload/Thekopsora-minima_expr-pra_2021.pdf