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 – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Eradication of an outbreak of *Thekopsora minima* in Germany (Lower Saxony)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2015, the rust fungus *Thekopsora minima* was found in garden centers and nurseries on *Vaccinium corymbosum* plants in Lower Saxony. Official phytosanitary measures were taken. The infested plants were destroyed and the remaining plants were inspected regularly. In 2016, a survey was carried out. **According to the survey results from 2016, it is expected that *T. minima* is further spread than assumed before. However, *T. minima* infections were found only on wild plants or neglected plants, and not on *Vaccinium corymbosum* plants in nurseries or garden centers. The pest has been also detected in a herbarium sample from 2011, proving *T. minima* has been present in Lower Saxony since at least 2011.** **Due to the survey results, the competent plant protection service of Lower Saxony assumed that in commercial blueberry plantings as well as in intensively pursued nurseries *T. minima* hardly cause any problems and stopped official eradication measures.**
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+49(0)39 4647 7515, outbreaks@julius-kuehn.de
3 Location	
3.1 Location	In Lower Saxony

4 **Reason of the notification and the pest status**	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	First confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of the area concerned
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: only in some parts of Germany
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: only in some parts of Germany
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.
5.2 Date of finding:	06-05-2015
5.3 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	01-06-2015
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; Physically closed conditions: greenhouse
6.2 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Vaccinium corymbosum*
6.3 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Vaccinium corymbosum* In 2015, T. minima has been detected in *Vaccinium corymbosum* plants in nurseries/garden centres. In 2016, *T. minima* was found only on wild plants or neglected plants during a survey.
6.4 Severity of the outbreak.	Following further inspections carried out, new areas of findings and new varieties of host plants were found. Many plants in the greenhouse showed symptoms.
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken, no demarcated area was established. Measures in garden centres and nurseries (2015):

	- Destruction of infested plants under supervision of the NPPO. - No moving of plants suspected to be infected. - Release of suspicious plants from quarantine in July 2016 after several official inspections of all plants. *T. minima* has been detected only in other places than nurseries and garden centres and only on neglected or wild blueberry plants (no plants to be moved or replanted) in the survey 2016. Therefore, no official measures were taken in 2016.
7.2 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.3 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.
7.4 Specific surveys.	Yes, in 2016, *T. minima* was detected in three rural districts in Lower Saxony. Infested plants were found in extensive or wild sites or in "bastardized" wild blueberries, especially long after harvest.
8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Preliminary pest risk analysis exists (Express-PRA).