

## Avocado leaf scorch

### What is Avocado leaf scorch?

Leaf scorch is caused by a strain of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* that colonises the water conducting tissue of the tree and impairs its normal function. The bacterium exists as various strains which differ in host range. Diseases include Pierce's disease of grapevine, Coffee leaf scorch and Citrus variegated chlorosis.

### What does it look like?

Canopies of affected trees have deformed leaves with scorched margins, chlorotic mottling, defoliation, shortened internodes and branch dieback.

### What can it be confused with?

Leaves with scorched margins can be confused with chloride toxicity.

### What should I look for?

Deformed leaves with leaf scorch and chlorotic mottling; stunted branches with twig dieback. Leaf scorch symptoms may also be observed on other nearby crops such as coffee, citrus or grapevines.

### How does it spread?

It can be transmitted by grafting and sap-sucking leafhoppers.

### Where is it now?

Leaf scorch in avocado is only known to be present in Costa Rica where it is also found on coffee and citrus.



Tony Cooke, DEEDI

Leaf scorch symptoms



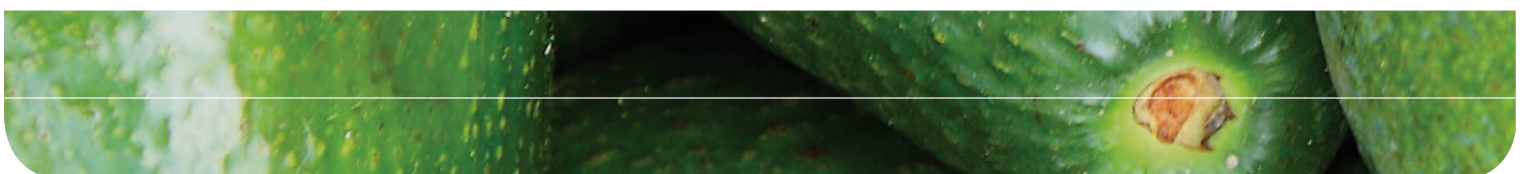
ENSA-Montpellier Archive, Ecole nationale supérieure agronomique de Montpellier, Bugwood.org

Symptoms of leaf scorch (Pierce's disease) on grapes



Alex. H. Purcell, University of California, Bugwood.org

Leaf symptoms of Citrus variegated chlorosis





## How can I protect my orchard from Avocado leaf scorch?

Source plant material only from clean, accredited suppliers, and preferably material that is certified. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common avocado diseases so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**



Leaf scorch symptoms on citrus

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