# Pierce's disease

*Xylella fastidiosa* (multiple subspecies, high priority pest when with vector)

## Which crops does it affect?

*Xylella fastidiosa* has a broad host range including cherry, sour cherry, coffee, lucerne, raspberry, grapevine, pear, almond, peach, plum, elm, sycamore, mulberry, oak, periwinkle, red maple, citrus and blueberry.

## Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Whole plant, leaves, stems, roots and fruit.

## What should I look for?

- Young shoots are stunted and bear greener, denser foliage than healthy trees.
- Lateral branches grow horizontally or droop, so that the tree seems uniform, compact and rounded.
- Leaves and flowers appear early.
- Leaves remain on the tree longer than on healthy trees.
- Leaves abnormally formed with unusual patterns, necrotic areas, yellowing and leaf death.
- Affected trees yield increasingly fewer and smaller fruits. After 3-5 years, they become economically worthless.
- Abnormally shaped, sized and coloured fruit, with mummification sometimes occurring.
- Dieback of stems, discoloration of bark, stunting or resetting of stems.
- Dwarfing of the whole plant.
- Dieback leading to total plant death.

## How does it spread?

*Xylella fastidiosa* is spread by infected plant material and insect vectors and cannot survive outside a plant or insect vector.

Symptoms on cherry leaves.

*Donato Boscia, CNR - Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, UOS, Bari (IT), gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLEFA/photos*

Symptoms on cherry leaves.

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**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL, CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

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