

Grapevine leaf rust

What is Grapevine leaf rust?

Grapevine leaf rust is caused by the fungus *Phakopsora euvitis* and mainly occurs in warm temperate and subtropical grape growing regions. Grapevine leaf rust usually infects leaves, but can also infect fruit, stems and rachises. Heavy infestations are common, and can cause early senescence and leaf drop. Grapevine leaf rust can also overwinter as mycelium in grapevine buds.

What should I look for?

Grapevine leaf rust causes small, dark, angular necrotic lesions on the upper surface of grapevine leaves. On the lower leaf surface, the lesions are covered by orange to yellow sporulating pustules.

Infection of Grapevine leaf rust can lead to weakening of the vine, causing premature defoliation, poor shoot growth and a reduction in fruit quality and yield. This results in poor vine growth for the following season and a reduction in the quality and quantity of fruit produced.

What can it be confused with?

Grapevine leaf rust is the only known rust on grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) and therefore has unique symptoms that are unlikely to be confused with other pests.

How does it spread?

Grapevine leaf rust can spread easily over long distances through wind-borne spores, clothing and equipment, as well as through the movement of infested plant material, particularly grapevine leaves.



Yuan-Min Shen, Taichung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, www.bugwood.org

The difference in symptoms of Grapevine leaf rust can be observed on the upper and lower surface of leaves



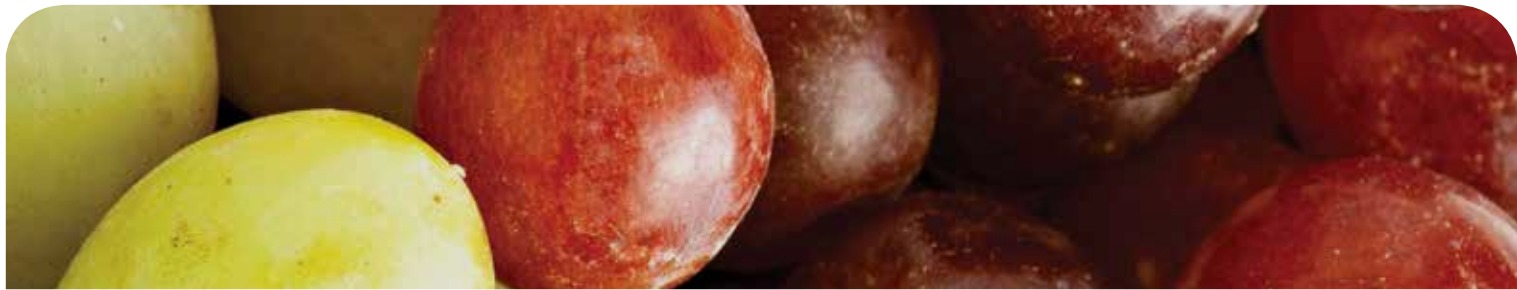
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Necrotic lesions on the upper surface of a grapevine leaf



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Necrotic lesions on the upper surface of a grapevine leaf are usually small and angular



Where is it now?

Grapevine leaf rust is found on grapevines across Asia, North America, Central America and South America.

An incursion of Grapevine leaf rust occurred in 2001 in the Northern Territory but was eradicated. Ongoing surveys have determined that the region has been free from Grapevine leaf rust since 1 July 2007.

How can I protect my vineyard from Grapevine leaf rust?

Only source high health status (preferably certified) plant material from reliable and accredited suppliers. Check your vineyard frequently for the presence of new pests and investigate any sick grapevines for unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common grapevine pests so you can tell if you see something different. Keep records of anything unusual and ensure all staff and visitors adhere to on farm biosecurity and hygiene practices.

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

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Symptoms from infection on the low surface of a grapevine leaf

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On the lower leaf surface, the lesions are covered by orange to yellow sporulating pustules

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