

Xylella fastidiosa



Xylella fastidiosa is a damaging bacterium with a vast host range. *X. fastidiosa* is causing significant mortality to olive trees (*Olea* spp.) in southern Italy and has been found on ornamental plants in Corsica, southern France and most recently Spain. *X. fastidiosa* is transmitted by xylem-feeding insects such as spittlebugs (eg. *Philaenus spumarius*) see inset image. Garden hosts include rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), *Hebe* spp., and *Cistus* spp. For more information see: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572108/xylella-fastidiosa-impl-trade.pdf

Olive *Olea* spp.



Donato Boscia, UOS, Bari (IT)



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Françoise Petter, Eppo

- Leaves turn brown at the tip, progressing to branch die-back
- Chlorosis, withering and desiccation of terminal shoots
- An abundance of suckers develop at the base of the tree as long as the roots remain viable

- Brown leaves remain until dislodged by weather
- The crown of the tree appears burnt or scorched
- Trees develop a skeletal appearance

Myrtle-leaf milkwort *Polygala myrtifolia*



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- Leaf scorch and desiccation starting at the tip
- Scorch progresses to the entire leaf
- Entire branches die-back and plant turns pale brown

Oleander *Nerium oleander*



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- Chlorotic mottling along leaf edges – turns to brown
- General stunting of leaves and internodes
- Defoliation after leaf scorch has killed the leaves
- New growth will also be symptomatic

Oak *Quercus* spp.



John Hartman, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org

- Scorch is pronounced with a dull red or yellow halo between the normal colour and scorched section
- Can appear on leaves of all ages at the same time thus a whole branch/tree can be affected
- Leaves may curl and drop prematurely

Cherry *Prunus* spp.



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- V-shape necrosis commonly appears on leaves
- Scorch is pronounced with a dull red or yellow halo between the normal colour and scorched section
- Scorch is often noted in late summer and autumn on mature leaves
- Leaves may curl and drop prematurely

Please note: plants should have more than one symptom before considering *X. fastidiosa* as a cause. Similar symptoms can be caused by other factors including other pests and diseases and environmental factors (frost damage, drought etc.)

Header photos: Spittlebug nymph, David Cappaert, Bugwood.org, *Prunus* symptoms, Donato Boscia, UOS, Bari (IT)

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED SIGHTINGS TO Your local APHA inspector **DATE:** _____

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