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# Press Notices

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24. 08. 2015

## Press Notice 84

### AVVIŻ TAL-QORTI

#### Qorti tal-Maġistrati (Malta)

#### Maġistrat Dr.Gabriella Vella B.A., LL.D.

B'ordni tal-Qorti peress illi l-Maġistrat Dr.Gabriella Vella ser tkun imsiefra fuq xogħol ġudizzjarju, is-seduta ta' nhar it-Tnejn, 12 ta' Ottubru 2015 ser tiġi differita għal nhar it-Tnejn 26 ta' Ottubru 2015 fl-istess hin avżat u għall-istess skop tal-verbal precedenti.

## Press Notice 85

### TQEGHID TA' NASES GHALL-MONITORAĠĠ TAL-INSETTI TAS-SIĠAR

F'dawn l-aħħar snin id-Direttorat għas-Saħħa tal-Pjanti ħareġ informazzjoni biex jiproteġi l-gżejjer Maltin mill-introduzzjoni tal-'Pine Wood Nematode'. Fost l-attivitajiet u l-obbligi tad-Direttorat isiru spezzjonijiet fuq l-importazzjoni ta' njam u siġar impurtati minn pajjiżi terzi kif ukoll minn żewġ pajjiżi Ewropej, il-Portugal u Spanja. Għal dan il-għan id-Direttorat qiegħed iniedi sħarriġ u monitoraġġ bl-użu ta' nases biex jikkontrolla l-preżenza tal-insetti tal-ispeċi *Monochamus galloprovincialis* li jistgħu jgħorru dan l-organizmu.

Id-Direttorat ser ikun qed ipogġi dawn in-nases li jidhru fir-ritratt f'diversi lokalitajiet f'Malta u Għawdex fejn hemm massa ta' siġar taż-żnuber, kif ukoll fil-portijiet u l-Ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Malta. Dawn in-nases se jiddendlu fl-għoli mas-siġar u se jkun fihom sustanzi li jattiraw il-*Monochamus*. Din il-kimika m'hi ta' ebda periklu għan-nies, għasafar, ambjent jew annimali, però m'għandhiex tintmiss u għandha tibqa' fin-nassa.



Il-‘Pine Wood Nematode’, magħruf bl-isem xjentifiku ta’ *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, huwa l-kawża tal-‘Pine Wilt Disease’. Dan in-nematodu huwa organizzmu mikroskopiku li jagħmel ħsara lis-siġar taż-żnuber.

### **Siġar ospitanti u sintomi**

Prinċiparjament dan in-nematodu jinstab fuq speċi ta’ *Pinus*, li jinkludu s-siġar taż-żnuber. L-injam ta’ dawn l-ispeċi jista’ jservi għall-iżvilupp ta’ dan in-nematodu. Fil-fatt, l-ispeċi *Pinus* huma l-aktar suxxettibbli għal din il-marda, imma l-lista tinkludi wkoll speċi oħrajn bħal ta’ *Abies* (European Silver Fir), *Chamaecyparis* (Ċipress), *Cedrus* (Ċedru), *Larix* (European Larch), *Picea* (Spruce) u l-*Pseudotsuga* (Douglas Fir) u l-injam u l-qoxra tal-koniferi kollha hlief it-*Thuja* (Ċedru abjad/aħmar).

L-ewwel sintomi li jindikaw il-preżenza ta’ dan l-organizzmu jinkludu sfurija u dbiel tal-weraq, li finalment iwasslu għall-mewt tas-siġra. Id-dbiel jista’ l-ewwel jidher fuq fergħa waħda biss iżda eventwalment jinfirex mas-siġra kollha.

### **Orìġini**

L-orìġini ta’ dan in-nematodu hija l-Amerika ta’ Fuq, minn pajjizi bħal Messiku, l-Istati Uniti u l-Kanada. Hija wkoll magħrufa bħala marda kiefra fil-foresti tal-Ġappun minn fejn infirxet għaċ-Ċina, l-Korea u t-Tajwan. Fl-1999 il-‘Pine Wood Nematode’ instab fil-Portugall, u fl-2008 ġie rrapurtat fi Spanja.

Sal-lum dan in-nematodu qatt ma nstab f’pajjiżna. Matul dan il-monitoraġġ id-Direttorat għas-Saħħa tal-Pjanti qed jitlob il-kooperazzjoni sħiħa tal-pubbliku u jitlob ukoll sabiex dawn in-nases ma jitneħħewx minn posthom. Għaldaqstant, jekk tiġi nnotata xi ħsara fuq xi nassa, wiehed

gentilment mitlub jikkuntattja lid-Direttorat fuq in-numru 22926535, **freephone 8007 2310** jew permezz tal-imejl fuq [plant.health@gov.mt](mailto:plant.health@gov.mt).

## **PLACING OF TRAPS FOR INSECT MONITORING**

During the past years the Plant Health Directorate has issued information to protect the Maltese Islands from the introduction of the Pine Wood Nematode. Among the activities and obligations, the Directorate carries out inspections on imported timber and trees from third countries as well as from two European countries, namely Spain and Portugal. For this purpose the Directorate will be carrying out surveys and monitoring using traps to control the presence of the insect *Monochamus galloprovincialis*, which may carry this organism.

The Directorate will be placing these traps in the photos in various localities in Malta and Gozo where there is a great number of fir trees, as well as in the ports and the Malta International Airport. These traps will be hung high in the trees and will contain chemicals which attract *Monochamus*. These pose no risk to people, birds, the environment or animals, however they should not be touched and should not be removed from the traps.



The Pine Wood Nematode, scientifically known as *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* is the cause of the Pine Wilt Disease. The nematode is a microscopic organism known to damage fir trees.

### **Hosts and symptoms**

This nematode is found mainly on pine species, including fir trees. The wood of these species can

aid in the development of this nematode. In fact, Pine species are the most susceptible to this disease, but the list of hosts include other species like *Abies* (European Silver Fir), *Chamaecyparis* (Cypress), *Cedrus* (Cedar), *Larix* (European Larch), *Picea* (Spruce), *Pseudotsuga* (Douglas Fir) and all coniferous wood and bark except *Thuja* (red/white cedars) as hosts of PWN.

The first symptoms that indicate the presence of this organism are the yellowing and wilting of the leaves which ultimately lead to the death of the tree. Wilting may first appear on one branch only but will eventually spread to the whole tree.

## **Origin**

*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* is native to North America but it only causes Pine Wilt disease in those countries where it has been introduced, meaning that the trees in north America are resistant to it. It has been found in Japan, then spread to China, Korea and Taiwan. In 1999 Pine Wood Nematode was found in Portugal, and then in 2008 it was reported in Spain.

To date this nematode has not been found in Malta and during this monitoring the Directorate is asking for full cooperation from the public and also calls for these traps not to be removed from their places. If any traps are seen to be damaged the public is kindly asked to contact the Directorate on 22926535, **freephone 8007 2310** or by email on **plant.health@gov.mt**