



Biosecurity alert: Phomopsis cane and leaf spot

(*Diaporthe ampelina*)

The disease and its impacts

Phomopsis cane and leaf spot of grapes, caused by the fungus *Diaporthe ampelina*, can affect all parts of the vine, including shoots, leaves, canes, trunks and occasionally bunches. The disease reduces grape yields and can slowly kill grape vines.

Primary infection occurs in spring, when cool, wet weather favours the spread of spores and infection of leaves and shoots by the fungus.

This disease is not established in Western Australia. Early detection and reporting of Phomopsis cane and leaf spot will help protect the Western Australian grape and wine industries.

What plants are affected?

All grapes (*Vitis spp.*) can be infected but varieties differ in their susceptibility.

Susceptible grape varieties include:

Table grapes: Thompson seedless (sultana), Waltham Cross, Purple Cornichon, Cardinal.

Wine grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Grenache, Tokay and Zinfandel.

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is another host.



LOOK for this disease

Leaves

- Tiny dark spots with yellow margins appear on older leaves first.
- Heavily infected leaves can be small and distorted and may fall off the vine.



Shoot

- Small dark spots appear on shoots which can expand and join up into thin dark cracks.
- In severe infections the cracks continue to grow into elongated dark lesions.



Dormant canes

- Canes are discoloured with dark patches surrounded by white bleached areas.
- Patches may become speckled with the tiny black fruiting structures (pycnidia) of the fungus.



Help stop the spread

Within a vineyard the disease spreads slowly as spores move from vine to vine in water droplets. Long distance spread occurs via the movement of infected plants and propagation material, including cuttings.



REPORT suspected sightings

- It's important that any suspect Phomopsis cane and leaf spot occurrence is reported.
- Early detection will help protect WA's grape and wine industries.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
08 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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