

EPPO Alert List: Added in 2002 – Deleted in 2004

Reasons for deletion

The PRA (04-10834) concluded that the pest *Oidium* sp. did not have the characteristics of a quarantine pest. In 2004 it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Oidium sp. on *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (a new powdery mildew of poinsettias)

Why	The NPPO of Sweden asked the EPPO Secretariat for more information of <i>Oidium</i> sp. on <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> , as several countries in Europe have recently reported new outbreaks, and in addition since the 1990s this disease is causing problems in USA.
Where	America: Mexico, Puerto Rico, USA (California, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee). Europe: Denmark (one outbreak found in 1995 and eradicated), Germany (found in autumn 2001, measures are being taken), Sweden, United Kingdom.
On which plants	According to the American experience, <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> is the only host of this <i>Oidium</i> sp.
Damage	White mycelium is observed on stems, petioles, mature and immature leaves, and bracts. Severely diseased leaves become twisted, and prematurely senescent. Powdery colonies are produced on both leaf surfaces. In USA, the disease often remains unnoticed until late in the season when bracts are beginning to colour. Earlier in the season, it may remain undetected because it mostly occurs on the under surface of the older, lower leaves. It is stated that in USA, <i>Oidium</i> sp. on poinsettia has become an economically significant problem for Poinsettia growers in the Midwest and northern USA.
Dissemination	The fungus produces large numbers of dry, powdery spores which are easily spread by air currents. They are also dispersed by man and tools within the glasshouse.
Pathway	Plants for planting, pot plants of <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> from countries where it occurs
Possible risks	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> is an important glasshouse crop in Europe, with substantial movement of planting material between countries. This <i>Oidium</i> sp. has already shown its ability to move undetected in trade. Chemical control is possible but data is lacking on its efficacy. Data is also lacking on the identity of the pathogen and, despite its rather long presence in the USA, it has not been possible to make progress on this. So far, in Europe, poinsettia crops are not affected by powdery mildew, the introduction and establishment of this <i>Oidium</i> sp. would indeed cause problems to growers.
Source(s)	Celio, G.J.; Hausbeck, M.K. (1998) Conidial germination, infection structure formation, and early colony development of powdery mildew on Poinsettia. <i>Phytopathology</i> , 88(2), 105-113. Koike, S.T.; Saenz, G.S. (1998) First report of powdery mildew, caused by an <i>Oidium</i> sp., on poinsettia in California. <i>Plant Disease</i> , 82(1), p 128. Motte, G.; Unger, J.G. (1995) [Appearance of powdery mildew (<i>Oidium</i> spp.) on poinsettias (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>) in Denmark]. <i>Nachrichtenblatt des Deutschen Pflanzenschutzdienstes</i> , 47(1) p 22. NPPO of Germany, 2002-02. NPPO of Sweden, 2001-11. INTERNET ADAS Bedding and Pot Plant Technical Notes (UK) http://www.adas.co.uk/horticulture/HONSNOTES/Bpn1100.PDF Bureau of Plant Industry in Pennsylvania (US) Emerging Plant Diseases. http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Agriculture/bureaus/plant_industry/pests/disease/diseases/emerging.html#mildew DEFRA web site – A new Poinsettia powdery mildew http://www.defra.gov.uk/plant/poinset.htm North Carolina State University (US) New, emerging, and re-emerging plant disease in the United States. http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/clinic/Emerging/fpm2.htm

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