

PREVENTION



Precautionary Measures: the effective strategy against *Ceratocystis platani*!

Description

The Canker stain of plane tree is the most severe plane pathogen caused by an endoparasite fungus named *Ceratocystis platani*. It was firstly observed in 1935 in the USA. In the 70ties, it was detected in Europe (Spain, France and Italy).

Currently several areas are infested in Italy. In 2000 the Marche Region the Regional Plant Protection Organization and the local authorities detected the first outbreak.

Symptoms and damages

Gradually necrotic, clearly brown, lenticular or flameshaped "spots" appear on the cortical layer. These spots are generated from the fungal mycelium, which, from the sapwood conductor tissues along the medullary rays, can attack the external section so to necrotize the bark and the cambium. The underneath woody layer is clothed with black stains on the cross sectional trunk which look like irregular stripes covering the last layers of annual growth.

The crown can be damaged in two ways: an acute and apoplectic one or a gradual and chronic one. The first one occurs in spring-summer, causes a sorrowful foliage, transparent crown, microfilia, death of some branches or of the entire plant.

Instead, in the chronic phase, the plant looks unhealthy with small and chlorotic foliage and the vegetative renewal can be postponed with poor development. A tree can be killed in 2-3 years.

Host plants

Particularly attacked are the species *Platanus* (*P. occidentalis* L. and *P. orientalis* L.) and the hybrid plane tree *P. acerifolia* (Aiton) Willdenow. On the contrary, the American species *Platanus occidentalis* is the most resistant.

The fungus' reproductive organs are spread by rain, water, insects and mainly by the human careless dispersal of infested woody waters.

The winter lesions are more sensitive to the disease as the plant, during the vegetative rest, does not immediately activate its natural defences. However, at low temperature (5-10 °C) the fungus is still infective.

Fight

The scientific research selected a strong resistant variety of *Platanus occidentalis* called "Vallis Clausa".

The Decree of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies n. 29 02 2012 provides emergency preventing, control and eradication measures against *Ceratocystis platani*.

Except for the possible use of g Canker resisted plane varieties, prevention measures are the most effective solution. The A.S.S.A.M.- Regional Plant Protection Organization edited and implements the prescriptions for the proper adoption of measures on *Platanus* spp. available on the A.S.S.A.M. website:

<http://www.assam.marche.it/servizi1/fitosanitario/fitosanitario/emergenza-fitosanitaria/206-ceratocystis-fimbriata-cancro-colorato-del-platano>

What's in case of suspected occurrence?

In case of suspected symptoms do **immediately inform** the Regional Plant Protection Organization:

1. contact the closest office of the Regional Plant Protection Organization by e-mail or telephone (providing name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail and exact detection site);
2. if possible, to be sure not to have confused it with other insects, do send a photograph to fit@assam.marche.it;
3. it is forbidden to transport infected plants.

Marche Region Plant Protection Service - ASSAM
Via dell'industria 1- Osimo (AN)

	web : www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario	
	email: fit@assam.marche.it	
Main headquarter and Province of Ancona:	☎ 071-8081	☎ 071-85979
Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo:	☎ 0735-654131	☎ 0735-654131
Province of Macerata:	☎ 0733-233771	☎ 0733-272380
Province of Pesaro and Urbino:	☎ 0721-891663	☎ 0721-878258

