

# ATTENTION



## PLUM POX

### Description

Plum pox virus (PPV), also known as Sharka, is the most devastating virus disease of stone fruits as far as its damages, production economic loss, as well as its fast spread.

It was observed for the first time in Bulgaria in 1917 (from which the term Sharka comes from= smallpox). Nowadays it affects all main European fruit areas. In Italy, after its first appearance in 1973, in the Alto Adige Region, in the 1995 the disease became more severe due to its widespread across peach orchards in several Italian regions. The first detection in the Marche Region dates back to 2000 in the Province of Ascoli Piceno. The causal virus of "Sharka" is **PPV (plum pox virus)**, belonging to the genus *Potyvirus* in the *Potyviridae* family.

### Symptoms and damages

Symptoms can affect leaves, flowers and fruits of one or more canopy sectors and their intensity depends on the stone variety flower, on the weather conditions and on the virus strain. Infected peach trees exhibit color-breaking symptoms as darker pink stripes on the varieties with rosaceous corolla.

Affected drupaceous leaves are characterized by ring or flame chlorotic maculations along the foliar nervations which, are clearly detectable in spring and tend to disappear with the summer heat.

Prior to fall down fruits often change color showing a deformed and bumpy surface and discolored rings on the epidermis. Rings (clear roundish notches) are typical disease signs on the apricot stones edges.

PPV unusual symptoms which can appear, even in winter, on highly sensitive genotypes are discolored areolas along the bottom side of the one year old young twigs. The virus is transmitted by vector insects (ephis) in a non persistent way so, eventually, it can quickly spread from plant to plant and area to area.

### Host Plants

All arboreal species of the genus *Prunus* are susceptible to PPV: orchards (peach, apricot; plum, cherry trees and the most common rootstocks) as well as wild and ornamental ones.

### 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](mailto:fit@assam.marche.it);
3. it is forbidden to transport infested and diseased plants.

### Marche Region Plant Protection Service - ASSAM

Via dell'industria 1- Osimo (AN)

email: [fit@assam.marche.it](mailto:fit@assam.marche.it)

web : [www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario](http://www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario)

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 –Urbino:



0721-891663



0721-878258





