

Pest Alert: Flavescence dorée disease in grapevine



Fig. 1. American grapevine leafhopper adult © Dr Ivo Tosevski, CABI Europe Switzerland



Fig. 2. Flavescence dorée disease symptoms on a red grape variety © Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Belgrade, Serbia

- **Flavescence dorée disease** is one of the most destructive phytoplasma diseases of grapevine and is present in the EU.
- The disease is caused by the organism ***Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis***.
- A variety of symptoms may be seen: **foliage may exhibit colour aberrations** which vary with grape cultivar, and **downward-rolled margins; shoots fail to lignify, are thin and rubbery; and fruit setting is reduced, with brown and shrivelled bunches and berry drop.**
- The **American grapevine leafhopper (*Scaphoideus titanus*)** is the principal vector of *Ca. Phytoplasma vitis*, though it can also be spread through propagation.
- This leafhopper is native to North America and **feeds on grapevine** and other plants in the family Vitaceae.
- The adult leafhoppers are **5 mm long, ochre-brown with darker brown markings.**
- The leafhopper was accidentally introduced into Europe and is now established in parts of the **Mediterranean and central Europe.**

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk