



Pest & Disease

INDUSTRY FACT SHEET

Neofabraea vagabunda [Branch Cankers]



Background: In 2014 researchers observed surface and rounded branch cankers (0.5 to 3 cm in diameter) and dieback of twigs on certain olive cultivars in southern Spain. Previously this disease had only been seen in Italy where it was termed olive leprosy. It has more recently been reported in California.

Symptoms: Symptoms include fruit rot, defoliation, twig lesions, and leaf spots. Humid growing conditions appear to provide favorable environments for the disease. *N. vagabunda* is pathogenic on olive twigs and 'wounds' are necessary for the infection to take hold. Wounds can occur in branches and leaves that have been damaged by hail, frost, pruning or mechanical harvesting of fruit.

Varieties affected: The disease has been observed on Arbequina, Picual, Arbosona (Spain) and Arbequina, Arbosana, Coratina, Picholine and Frantoio in California (Sonoma, Glenn and San Joaquin counties).

Special Note: This disease can be confused with anthracnose.

Action required: No specific action is required at this time, but we urge growers that experience the conditions listed above, and who have had issues with anthracnose to BE ON ALERT.

Who to Contact: If you are concerned that you have this disease in your orchard please contact the Australian Olive Association on (08) 8573 6545 or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881, or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888.

Credit to: J.Romero, M. C.Raya, L. F.Roca, J.Moral, and A.Trapero, Departamento de Agronomía, Universidad de Córdoba, Campus de Rabanales, Edif. C-4, 14071, Córdoba, Spain. Z Images F. Trouillas, UC Davis.

