

# Fact sheet:

## *Phytophthora drechsleri*



A severe root rot in kiwifruit has been observed in Korea caused by *Phytophthora drechsleri* since 1997. Less severe impacts on kiwifruit have also been reported in California.

Infected vines exhibit leaf chlorosis, defoliation, root and stem rot before eventual death. The disease is relatively severe in poorly drained lowlands with over 80% of plants infected in some orchards.

*Phytophthora drechsleri* is considered to be one of the most significant kiwifruit pathogens in Korea and has a wide host range, making it an organism of concern for other industries also.

### Signs and symptoms

Diseased vines generally show dieback symptoms with decline, leaf chlorosis and scorch, and eventual death (image to the right).

Symptoms can be confused with Psa, although the presence of rotten roots is a distinguishing feature of *P. drechsleri*. Identification is based on isolation, culture and morphological identification, or PCR testing but is not readily distinguishable from *P. cryptogea*.

Image: Symptoms of *P. drechsleri* on kiwifruit; plant decline (left), and discolored inner phloem tissue (right).



### Distribution and climate range

*P. drechsleri* has only been reported in kiwifruit in Korea and California but is present in other host species.

The disease mainly occurs in poorly drained lowland fields. A survey in Korea found that 19/23 lowland orchards were infected while only 1/58 upland orchards were infected by the disease. Incidence of infection was typically 1 to 30%, with over 80% of vines infected in some areas.



### Control

No control measures with proven effectiveness are available once infection is established. Growers can implement preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of infection; such as selecting a good orchard site, installing good drainage systems, and planting healthy rootstocks.

**What should you do if you think you have seen vines displaying these symptoms?**

**Phone MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825**