Psa assessment

This is to read out to the group of participants to explain the activity:

Cut It Out was a survey-based project, where growers and managers in the industry were interviewed and asked about their strategies around Psa management. The aim of the project was to find out what the industry was doing to control and manage Psa on the ground. Part of the interview involved the participants reviewing photos of typical Psa scenarios and outlining what actions they would take if they saw that scenario on their orchard which informed their decision about if and where to make a Psa removal cut.

One of the key takeaways from this project was that all growers are making an initial assessment of the vine and wider situation on the orchard first, which then guides them in their decision-making process.

It is this initial assessment that we are focusing on for this activity.

Split into small groups of 3-4 people. Each group will receive a photoset of typical Psa scenarios that you might come across on your orchard. We want to look at each photo and consider what things would influence your decision on what to do in each scenario and why.

For example, if the vine were a male would this influence your decision-making process?

What if it was a Hayward vine, or the new Red variety?

What about if you saw this symptom in spring before flowering, or in summer after fruit set?

What other things would you consider when making the decision about what to do in this scenario?

There are 6 different scenarios. Look at the photos and discuss this in your groups. I will come around the groups to hear how you are going.

If there is any time at the end, we can come back and look at a few scenarios with the whole group.

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Cane and shoot scenarios

- How extensive is the shoot/cane dieback? Would you check the whole block/orchard? How many would need to be affected to act on? For example: if very few would mark and monitor.
- Is the dieback progressing? What is the overall health of the vine?
- Is it one cane or more? More complex if greater than one cane.
- Is it only one leader impacted or both?
- Other Psa symptoms; is there exudate? If so remove.
- Time of year:
    - Budbreak to fruit set, any exudate removed. If only dieback can leave until after fruit set.
    - Early spring would remove. Closer to flowering leave and monitor using tape.
    - Typically, a spring issue, not seen much after fruit set.
- How old is the plant? Young plants more susceptible to Psa.
- How advanced is the wilt? Are leaders affected? If not very advanced, leave and monitor.
- Is it on a female plant, or male plant? Hayward vs Gold vs other varieties?

Leader scenarios

- Psa symptoms; is there exudate or wilt? If so remove.
- How many in the block? Fewer observed, more likely to remove.
- How widespread are the symptoms?
- What is beyond the canker? Is it still living and producing?
- Time of year:
    - Winter would cut out.
    - If symptoms develop in summer, prepare new plant.
- Assess the risk of making a cut, risk of poor sanitising practice.
- What is the age of the vine?
- Is bark tissue rubbing off? Likely dead and should be cut back.
- Are new suckers viable?
- Have I got replacements plants?

Trunk scenarios

- Assess extent of infection on surrounding vines.
- How severe is infection, how advanced? What is the health of the trunk like? If lots of exudate, will cut out.
- What cut can be made?
- What potential sites are there? Viable suckers, re-grafting or new plant? If many vines in a block infected would utilise suckers.
- Time of year:
    - Winter would cut out.
    - If symptoms develop in summer, prepare new plant.

Young grafts scenario

- Do I have replacement plants?
- Are they young or mature rootstocks?
- May peel back bark to identify Psa.
- How many grafts are affected?
- Assess potential grafting sites.

Further assessment after cutting

- Is there brown tissue? If so, continue removal of infected tissue; to the next wire/40cm cut.
- Are there any viable suckers for re-grafting?
- Favouring a copper solution spray. Less risk of brush head spreading Psa.

Scenario: cane dieback

Scenario: cane dieback

Scenario: leader growing end canker

Scenario: leader trunk end canker

Scenario: trunk canker

Scenario: trunk girdle canker

Scenario: young graft