

Incidence and severity of European canker in orchards in Latvia

Jūlija Vilcāne, Inta Jakobija

Latvian Plant Protection research centre,
Strukturu iela 14a, Rīga, LV-1039, Latvia,
email: julija.vilcane@laapc.lv

In the Baltic countries extensive information about incidence of European canker, caused by a fungal pathogen *Neonectria ditissima* (Tul. & C. Tul) Samuels & Rossman, was reported in early 1970s. Apple growing technologies have been changed and there is a lack of broad overview of actual situation. The aim of the study was to obtain recent data on incidence and severity of apple canker in Latvia.

The research was conducted in vegetation period in 2015. In this study 18 orchards with integrated plant protection systems (IPPS) and organic production (OP) in different regions of Latvia were surveyed. For assessments commercial, widely grown apple cultivars were used.

Apple canker was found in all orchards on all apple cultivars surveyed during the research. However incidence and severity of disease was different among the apple cultivars. The lowest recorded incidence was 55 %, the highest — 100 %. In IPPS orchards, on trunks of apple cultivar ‘Auksis’ recorded higher number of wounds, than on trees grown in the OP farming system. On the side and fruit branches number of wounds was opposite — smaller number of wounds in IPPS orchards, and notably higher in OP orchards. Type of wounds showed that most frequently apple canker developed in damages formed under unfavourable conditions (36 %), in angles of branches (22 %), in leaf and fruit scars (21 %) and in wounds after pruning (17 %).

Keywords: apple cultivars, integrated growing, organic growing, plant protection