

Pierce's disease

Pierce's disease, caused by the bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*, directly affects the cultivation of the vine. It multiplies in the ducts and tissues carrying water in the plant and acts progressively. It is capable of causing the death of the whole plant and vineyards in a period of two to five years.

The spread of this disease is performed through insects carrying the bacteria, which quickly move from one area to another. This represents a risk of great importance since it can affect areas declared as 'disease-free' and its presence has never been previously detected.

Infected plants produce very few and low quality fruits which wilt before harvest. The leaves become decolored and, in some vineyards, there is a symptom called "match", which can be seen when plants lose their leaves, but stems remain attached to the plant.

The disease was detected, for the first time, in the Valley of Guadalupe, state of Baja California, in 1995. Therefore, the *National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality* (SENASICA) implemented a series of actions aiming to reduce and prevent its spread to areas where it is not present.

In 2018, the Federal Government, through the SENASICA, contributed with 2 million 287 thousand 704 pesos for the campaign against Pierce's disease to be carried out in order to implement phytosanitary actions set forth in the current legal

provisions, of which the traps for monitoring pests and phytosanitary diagnosis stand out due to their importance.