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Diagnostics of *Stemphylium beticola* nom. prov. in sugar beet

ABSTRACT

Since 2007 yellow leaf spots appear on the leaves of sugar beet on fields in the Netherlands. The causal fungus was identified as *Stemphylium beticola* nom. prov. and cause sugar yield losses up to 40% in Dutch sugar beet production (Hanse, 2013, Hanse and Raaijmakers, 2014, Hanse *et al.*, 2015). The first infestation appears in June-August on the leaves of sugar beet and is characterised by small, irregular, yellow spots. Subsequently, the yellow spots necrotise from inside out into a brownish tissue. The spots spread over the leaves and *Stemphylium beticola* nom. prov. infest the whole plant. Heavily infested leaves die and on the newly formed leaves new yellow spots appear. Due to the loss of leaves the canopy falls open and in case of a severe infestation the soil becomes visible in August-September. Due to the damage caused by this fungal infestation, the damage threshold is at the appearance of the first spots. It is important to distinguish yellow spots caused by *Stemphylium beticola* nom. prov. from all other yellow spots, caused by other pests, diseases and nutrient deficiency. This poster is aimed to facilitate the diagnostics of *Stemphylium beticola* nom. prov. in sugar beet in the field and laboratory.
