

# Pitch Canker

## Variation in resistance to pine pitch canker in Scots pine

The fungus is highly virulent attacking *Pinus* species, causing pitch canker. Native to Mexico, it has spread into many of the major pine growing areas of the world and, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, was discovered in southern Europe. It is arguably the most important pathogen of pine seedlings in nurseries, causing extensive mortality; mature trees may also die. Based on knowledge of spread of the pathogen to date, there is an extremely high risk that *F. circinatum* will spread further in Europe and Scots pine has proven highly susceptible to infection.

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