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Detection of grapevine nepoviruses in woody canes

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Abstract: Testing grapevine viruses in woody parts of the plant allows testing of grafting materials just before grafting.

Our results showed that producing a rough sawdust with a chainsaw, blending it 1:5 (w/v) with Tris extraction buffer gave a positive signal in the ELISA procedure if only 1% of the canes in a bundle was infected with nepoviruses (AMV or GFV). Transmission by sawdust from one sample to the next did not occur.

Sawdust samples could be homogenized with an Ultra Turrax or a Tecan Homogenizer just after sawing. The differences in the results between the Ultra Turrax and the Tecan Homogenizer were small.

Rough sawdust samples gave better results than shavings.

Producing small wooden disks before homogenization gave better results than all other methods but this sampling method is relatively time consuming.

Using disks is only possible for small series where high accuracy is needed, rough sawdust is a method for large series with less accuracy, especially for testing grafting materials.