

**NOTE: Comparison of Three Laboratory Methods to  
Evaluate the Pathogenicity and Virulence of Ten  
*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* Strains on Apple, Pear,  
Cherry and Peach Trees**

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The pathogenicity and virulence of ten Greek *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* strains from different hosts (citrus, pear, apple, peach and cherry) were evaluated using three different laboratory methods, which produced results in good agreement. All ten strains were virulent on apple, pear, cherry and peach trees. The extent of tissue colonized varied considerably among strains and cultivars. On excised shoots and twigs of apple and pear, strains BPI 176, BPI 203, PI 2 and PI 14 were the most virulent and strains BPI 689, BPI 992, BPI 4, BPI 20, PI 18 and PI 19 were the least virulent. On excised shoots and twigs of peach and cherry, strains BPI 176, BPI 203, PI 2, PI 14, PI 18 and PI 19 were the most virulent and strains BPI 4 and BPI 20 were the least virulent. Moderate virulence was evinced by strains BPI 689 and BPI 992. These pathogenicity assays are proposed as rapid and reproducible screening systems to evaluate the susceptibility of apple, pear, cherry and peach cultivars to this bacterial pathogen.

KEY WORDS: Excised twig; *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*; pathogenicity; virulence.

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