

**IVth INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
POSTHARVEST PATHOLOGY**

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa
28 May – 3 June 2017

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

59 New and emerging postharvest diseases in pome fruit in the Netherlands

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Keywords Storage; Pathogens; Fruit crops

ABSTRACT

Postharvest diseases of apple and pear are caused by a range of fungal pathogens, and often result in significant economic losses during storage. In general, this group of pathogens infects developing fruits and remains quiescent without causing symptoms during the growing season and after harvest during the first weeks in storage. Typically, symptoms of disease occur after several months in cold storage with controlled atmosphere. Common pathogens causing such late post-harvest losses are *Neofabraea* spp. (lenticel rot or bull eye's rot); *Neonectria galligena* (Nectria rot; blossom-end rot); *Colletotrichum acutatum* species complex (bitter rot); *Phytophthora* spp., *Alternaria* spp., and *Stemphylium vesicarium*. A survey of apple and pear fruit lots in the Netherlands in 2012-2016 revealed a number of new and emerging postharvest diseases. The most important pathogens were *Cadophora luteo-olivacea* causing side rot on pears, and *Fibulorhizoctonia psychrophila* as the causal agent of lenticel spot on apples and pears. Also new problems with sooty blotch were noticed as well as several pathogens not earlier described in the Netherlands on apple or pear, such as *F. avenaceum* on pear and apple, *Neonectria candida* and *Neofabraea kienholzii* on pear, and *Colletotrichum godetiae* and *Truncatella angustata* on apple. The survey revealed strong season effects with different incidences and severities of the various pathogens in different years.