

# PRESS RELEASE



of the International Bremia Evaluation Board Europe (IBEB-EU)

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## No newly emerging threat from *Bremia lactucae* in Europe in 2025.

*Bremia lactucae*, the causal agent of downy mildew in lettuce, is genetically very variable and may develop new races that overcome host plant resistance in lettuce crops. Even within one lettuce production field, several races may be present. Monitoring the changes in the Bremia population is important for breeders and growers. The International Bremia Evaluation Board Europe (IBEB-EU) has collected 704 Bremia isolates from lettuce between 2024 and early 2025 (up to March) in Europe. Recently denominated races (Bl: 38-Bl: 41) were still dominant and thus important:

	2024	2025 (up to March)
Bl: 41EU	25%	41%
Bl: 40EU	12%	4%
Bl: 39EU	2%	4%
Bl: 38EU	7%	11%

Many other isolates appeared in a lower frequency. A formal evaluation process started in December 2024, considering not only the frequency of isolates, but also their geographic distribution and their potential to increase in importance. In April 2025, the IBEU-EU concluded that no distinctive new threats have emerged in the field. Consequently, no new Bremia races were denominated in 2025.

The board emphasizes the importance of chemical control and hygiene measures in addition to plant resistance. Fungicide application, especially in a young plant stage, gives additional protection to resistant lettuce crops, which will help prevent the development of new *Bremia* races. Proper hygiene practices, such as removal of debris and diseased plants, cleaning of farm equipment and prevention of prolonged periods of leaf wetness, will reduce the spread of Bremia in lettuce crops.

Editorial note :

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