

Crayfish plague continued

Host range

Crustaceans known to be susceptible to crayfish plague:

Japanese crayfish*	(<i>Cambroides japonicus</i>)
Louisiana swamp crayfish*	(<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>)
noble crayfish*	(<i>Astacus astacus</i>)
signal crayfish*	(<i>Pasifastacus leniusculus</i>)
stone crayfish*	(<i>Austropotamobius torrentium</i>)
Turkish crayfish*	(<i>Astacus leptodactylus</i>)
white-clawed crayfish*	(<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)
Chinese mitten crab	(<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>)
freshwater crayfish	(<i>Cherax</i> spp)
giant Tasmanian crayfish	(<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>)
Gippsland spiny crayfish	(<i>Euastacus kershawi</i>)

It is believed that all species of freshwater are susceptible.

Presence in Asia-Pacific

EXOTIC — Crayfish plague has not been officially reported in the Asia-Pacific region under the NACA-FAO-OIE quarterly aquatic animal disease reporting program.

Epidemiology

- Mortalities of up to 100% have occurred in Europe, with extermination of susceptible populations.
- The North American crayfish is largely resistant and is a carrier of the disease agent and source of transmission among less resistant species of crayfish.
- All species of freshwater crayfish are believed to be susceptible to infection with crayfish plague
- The disease was introduced into Europe in American freshwater crayfish and has decimated European crayfish stocks (both wild and cultured). There has been no evidence of developing resistance to the disease among European species during the 100 years since its introduction.
- Crayfish plague can occur at any time of year, but is more likely in the summer months.
- Death can occur 5–50 days (or more) from initial infection, depending on water temperature and the initial number of zoospores.
- The fungal infestation releases motile zoospores direct to the water column when the crayfish dies, and these infect other crayfish.
- Transmission is horizontal through the water column.

* naturally susceptible (other species have been shown to be experimentally susceptible)



