

Tomato Mosaic Virus on Tomato

Recognize the problem

The symptoms vary depending on the age of the plant, the variety and the environmental conditions. Affected plants are often stunted with patches of light green or yellowish colours. Young leaves can become distorted, sometimes becoming long and thin and looking like the leaves of a fern. Under high temperatures and high light intensity mottling is severe, while under low temperatures stunting of young crops and leaf distortion is severe. Fruits are discoloured and show brown streaks inside.

Tomato mosaic virus. (Photo by University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)



Background

The disease is seed-borne and can survive in the soil to infect newly planted crops. It can be transferred through touching the plants. This includes transplanting seedlings, pruning, and movement by workers. The disease affects a wide range of crops including weeds. Milk kills the virus particles.

Management

Non-chemical control

- Use resistant varieties and certified disease free seeds.
- Carefully remove infected crop plants (especially at the seedling stage) and roots from the field. Dip hands in milk every five minutes when handling plants, or use disposable gloves and discard into a rubbish bin after use.
- Wash hands and clothing before moving to an area without the disease. Wash hands and small tools in milk (non-fat dry milk powder at 20% wt/vol).
- Workers are discouraged from smoking as the virus can be transmitted from tobacco.
- If tobacco products are handled, wash hands afterwards.
- Field hygiene should be well practised.

There are no chemicals to manage the disease.

Scientific name(s) > **Tomato Mosaic Virus**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: many countries where this pest or problem is present



Authors: This factsheet is based on information written for "The Tomato Farming Handbook", first published by KENGAP Horticulture, 2011.
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