



Fig Mosaic Virus

What is Fig Mosaic virus?

Fig mosaic virus is a disease on Figs that appears as light yellow spots on both the leaves and fruit (Picture at right). Fig mosaic can cause leaves to be smaller and deformed, resulting in reduced plant growth, lower yields and smaller deformed fruit. If infected from a young age, susceptible varieties will be dwarfed.

The spots can appear across the leaves as either regular or irregular patches of light green. In later stages, the spots may develop rust colored rings around their edges.



Spread

Fig mosaic virus can be spread when new trees are grown using material from infected parent trees. The virus is also thought to be spread by the eriophyid mite, which is less than 0.01 cm in size (Picture at right).

Management

Fig mosaic is common in all fig orchards and very difficult to manage.

Variety. Varieties vary in the effect of the disease. For example, in California, *Kadota* and *Calimyrna* are least susceptible while *Ficus Palmata* is considered almost immune. *Black Mission* is highly susceptible.

Parent material. Only grow new trees from parent trees that are virus free.

Mite control. Controlling the mites may be helpful in reducing the occurrence of the disease.



This image is a magnified image of the eriophyid mite, which only measures 0.01 cm. Photo: Bryce W. Falk

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Reference: UC Davis Integrated Pest Management: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r261100611.html>

For more information visit: www.ip.ucdavis.edu

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