Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management/Division of Agriculture Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS)

Plum Pox Virus (PPV)

Potyvirus sp.

Native of Europe, Plum Pox Virus was first introduced to Pennsylvania in 1999 and recently found in New York and Michigan in 2006. A pest of *Prunus* species, only PPV-D (one of four strains of PPV) has been found in North America as of 2008. An eradication plan has been set forth in the U.S. and Canada. Plum Pox Virus is **not yet present in Rhode Island**.



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P. Gentit, Ctifl, courtesy of APSnet



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Symptoms:

PPV-D infects multiples varieties of fruits. General symptoms include; early fruit drop, reduced sugar content in fruit and vein yellowing.

Symptoms that may be visible on Plum:

- Blotchy leaves, with speckles or ring spots. "Shot holes," from brown, dead areas forming and falling out.
- Dark brown rings on unripe fruit. Maturing fruit show these rings turning red. Fruits are deformed and bumpy. Severely infected fruit will be shriveled with brown spots.
- White rings or line patterns may be visible in pits.
- Brown cankers with purple borders in the fall may be visible on the green shoots of infected trees.

Symptoms that may be visible on Peach:

- Pink stripes or streaking on petals of large flowers.
- Yellow rings or netting on leaves, veinal chlorosis, speckling or blotches. Deformed leaves with brown patches.
- Yellow or red rings/blotches on skin of fruit. When rings run together, line patterns may be evident.

Symptoms that may be visible on Apricot:

- Yellow or light green ring spots on leaves. Vein yellowing, netting or blotches.
- Large yellow or red rings or line patterns on fruits. Deformed and bumpy-like fruit, developing brown patches. Distortion extends to pits.

Symptoms that may be visible on Cherry:

- Yellow rings or blotches on leaves.
- Notched marks and yellow or brown rings on fruit.

Similar Disease Symptoms:

Bacterial Spot, Rusty Spot, X-Disease, Thrip Damage and a number of other pathogens and nutrient deficiencies can cause similar symptoms. For more information, see the PPV and Other Diseases of Stone Fruit Symptoms Booklet or the History, Biology and Management of PPV.

Information Sources

<u>Plum Pox Virus- Potyviridae.</u> 13 March 2008. 25 February 2009 http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/plumpoxvirus.html. Image Sources

Plum Pox Virus- Potyviridae. 13 March 2008. 25 February 2009 http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/plumpoxvirus.html>.