

EXOTIC PEST FACT SHEET 8

Capsicum Chlorosis Virus (CaCV)



What is it?

CaCV is a Tospovirus emerging as an economically important disease. It is known to occur on several weeds which plays an important role in the survival and dispersal of the virus.

What are the main hosts?

The major economic hosts of CaCV include capsicums, chillies and tomatoes although its full host range is still not completely known.

What does it look like?

In capsicum, chlorosis or yellowing on leaf margins and between the veins develops on young leaves, which often become narrow and curled (Fig 1, 2). Older leaves may show a chlorotic or necrotic ringspot pattern. Fruit on infected plants is small, distorted and often scarred on the surface or have necrotic lesions (Fig 3). Affected plants are stunted, particularly when infected early, and may eventually die.

Why is it important?

Tospoviruses are collectively of worldwide importance because it causes significant economic losses on a wide range of crops in areas where they are known to be present.

How is it transmitted?

CaCV is spread by thrips. Sources of infection are other infected plants including weeds near crops. The virus is not spread by other insects, mechanically, in soil or in seed.

Where is it present?

CaCV has been reported in Hawaii, Australia, India and South East Asia.



Fig 1. CaCV symptoms on chili pepper leaves.
Image: Pissawan Chiemsombat, Kasetsart University

How can I protect my industry?

Check your production sites frequently for the presence of new diseases and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pests and diseases of your industry so you can recognise something different.



Fig 2. Chlorotic sinuous lines and concentric rings on leaf of capsicum due to CaCV tospovirus.



Fig 3. Coalesced paler ring spots with necrotic border induced by CaCV tospovirus on mature fruit of capsicum.

Images: G. Marchoux, INRA Station de Pathologie Végétale, Bugwood.org