

# FACT SHEET



## Pest, disease and weed monitoring

*Surveillance for Vegetables New Zealand priority unwanted pests should also be incorporated into your normal passive surveillance/monitoring activities.*

### Why monitor for pests, diseases and weeds?

- Becoming familiar with common pests on your property means that your spray applications or alternative treatment methods can be used with maximum efficiency.
- Routine checking of crops is essential for maintaining crop health and gives you the best chance of identifying a new pest before it becomes established.
- It is important to know the common pests, diseases and weeds in your area and especially those that are often found on your property.
- Consult with neighbours on anything suspicious.

### What to look for

*Common symptoms of pest infestation or plant disease include:*

- Stem or leaf wilt
- Leaf chlorosis or mottling
- Puncture wounds, chew marks or tunnelling tracks in leaf tissue
- Reduced fruit or vegetable size and reduced crop yield
- Underdeveloped root systems
- Pale fuzzy or powdery growth on leaves, indicating mildew
- Decayed roots, leaves, stems, fruit or vegetables
- Factsheets with details of exotic pests of concern to the Vegetable Industry can be found on the Vegetables New Zealand website in the Biosecurity section.

### What to do if you find something unusual

- Call MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline 0800 99 66
- Record the pest, disease symptoms or weed and photograph
- Record the location and restrict access of farm workers and equipment to that zone
- Wash hands, clothes and boots that have been in contact with affected plant material or soil
- Do not move the affected plant – incorrect handling could further spread the pest
- Identify equipment and machinery that have recently been used in the affected zone.