Leaf mottle occurs only in Michigan and can be severe.

**Symptoms.** Leaves show a mottling pattern and may be malformed or straplike. Severely infected Rubel bushes have dead stems, a small amount of regrowth near the crown area, and little to no crop. Jersey or Blueray plants may be stunted and have small, pale, rosetted terminal leaves.

**Disease cycle.** The virus spreads via infected pollen carried by honeybees from diseased to healthy bushes up to 1 mile. Symptoms do not become apparent until 3 to 4 years after infection.

**Management.** Plant virus-tested clean planting stock; test plants showing symptoms; remove and destroy infected plants; use herbicides to prevent regrowth from crown; place beehives as far as possible from infected areas; do not move hives from infected to healthy fields.