

Tomato ringspot

Tomato ringspot virus

Tomato ringspot is a rare but serious disease of highbush blueberries in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington.



Circular spots on infected leaves.

Symptoms.

Infected leaves are cupped and malformed with circular spots 2 to 5 mm in diameter. Necrotic spots can also occur on canes. Young leaves may be straplike and mottled. Symptoms are variable within the same plant. Infected plants may be defoliated by mid-harvest and eventually die, often after a severe winter. The disease spreads slowly in the field. Roughly oval-shaped patches of weak or dying plants develop over several years.

Disease cycle.

The virus is vectored by dagger nematodes (*Xiphinema* spp.) and has a wide host range, including chickweed, dandelion, narrow-leaved plantain, and fruit crops such as apple, grape, peach, and raspberry. It is seed-borne in many of its hosts. These plants can act as a reservoir of virus for nematodes feeding on their roots.



Infected, straplike, mottled leaves.

Management. Before planting, test soil for dagger nematodes and fumigate if nematodes are present; plant virus-tested, clean planting stock; practice good weed control; plant tolerant cultivars; remove and destroy infected plants, including adjacent non-symptomatic plants.