

Types of Plum Pox Virus

Four PPV groups exist to date. PPV-D was originally described from apricot trees in southeastern France; PPV-M from peach trees in Greece; PPV-EA from apricot trees in El Amar, Egypt; and PPV-C from sour cherry trees in Moldova.



PPV-induced chlorotic rings and blotches on peach fruit

PPV-M isolates are more aggressive in peach, are aphid vectored more efficiently, and spread more rapidly in an orchard than the D strain. PPV-M has been reported to be seed transmitted, while other PPV strains are known not to be transmitted through seeds. Both PPV strains M and D infest peach, plum, and apricot. The strain present in Pennsylvania has been determined to be PPV-D.

PPV-C infects sweet and tart cherry naturally and has infected other Prunus hosts experimentally. To date, no other PPV strains have been reported to infect cherry naturally. Scientists use several techniques to distinguish PPV strains. They monitor the behavior of host trees. They conduct serological tests such as ELISA and molecular tests such as polymerase chain reactions (PCR). They also sequence the PCR products or cut the PCR products with enzymes at locations in the DNA sequence that are unique to each strain.



PPV symptoms on young fruits of peach (top row) and nectarine



Report Infestations

For more information or to report trees and fruit displaying signs of plum pox, contact one of the following government agencies:

**USDA APHIS PPQ
Plum Pox Virus Program**
421 Penbrooke Drive, Suite 14
Penfield, NY 14526
Phone: 585-388-2707
Fax: 585-388-2701
Toll Free: 1-800-249-2363

**FOR MORE INFORMATION and a
PHOTO GALLERY OF SYMPTOMS
visit the USDA web site at:
www.aphis.usda.gov**

You may download a copy of this brochure at the USDA web site or obtain additional copies from your State Plant Health Director.

For local information on Plum Pox and other diseases contact your state extension service or department of agriculture office.

Photos Courtesy

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PLUM POX

*A Devastating Threat
to Peaches, Apricots,
Plums, Nectarines,
Almonds,
and Sweet and Tart
Cherries*

