



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Lettuce mosaic (228)



Photo 1. Small yellow lettuce with down-turned leaves infected with *Lettuce mosaic virus*. Compare with green healthy plant behind.



Photo 2. Patches of yellow and green patterns - a mosaic - on a lettuce leaf infected with *Lettuce mosaic virus*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On lettuce and chicory, ornamentals and weeds in the daisy family.
- An important virus disease.
- Stunted plants; light and dark green patches on leaves, margins rolled under, distorted, brown veins.
- Spread is by aphids and seed (up to 40%).
- Cultural control: certified seed; avoid overlapping crops; weed; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: not effective: aphids spread the virus from diseased to healthy plants very quickly, faster than it takes an insecticide to kill them. If insecticides are needed to kill aphids, use white or horticultural oil, or soap.

Common Name

Lettuce mosaic

Scientific Name

Lettuce mosaic virus; the abbreviation is LMV.

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Information from CABI (2014) *Lettuce mosaic virus* Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc/>); and information (and Photo 1) from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing Photo 2 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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