



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Passionfruit woodiness (156)



Photo 1. Characteristic spotting and yellowing of leaves from infection by *Passion fruit woodiness virus*.



Photo 2. Leaves of passionfruit infected with *Passion fruit woodiness virus* showing yellow spotting throughout the leaf.



Photo 3. Fruit of passionfruit infected with *Passion fruit woodiness virus*. Distorted infected fruit (left); healthy (right).

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Two viruses occur, either alone or more often together in cultivated and wild passionfruit. An important disease.
- The disease causes distorted leaves and small fruits, but seriousness depends on variety and virus strains.
- Spread is by aphids. The viruses are not seed borne.
- Cultural control: take scions from disease-free plants, and rootstocks from seed; carefully check every plant for symptoms before field planting; avoid planting near known hosts of *Cucumber mosaic virus*, e.g., banana, capsicum, chilli, cucurbits; weed (i.e., wild passion flowers); plant tolerant hybrids (yellow x purple).
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Passionfruit woodiness

Scientific Name

Passionfruit woodiness potyvirus (PWV) and *Cucumber mosaic cucumovirus* (CMV). Both these viruses can cause woodiness symptoms alone, but often they occur together.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information (and Photo 2) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany; and (plus Photo 3) from *Diseases of fruit crops in Australia* (2009). Editors, Tony Cooke, Denis Persley, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing.

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