

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Cucurbit warts (267)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On cucurbits: gourds, melons, pumpkins, squash, zucchini, and others.
- There are a number of reasons for the warts. (i) there are heirloom varieties or varieties that are selected or bred for warts; they are popular for historical reasons and sought for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and for traditional foods; (ii) oedema occurs in cool, cloudy and wet weather. It occurs when there is a build-up of water and cells burst, but later heal; (iii) virus infections cause knobby fruit; (iv) insects chew the fruit.
- Oedema warts on pumpkin can affect marketability; and viruses can cause high (>50%) losses.
- Cultural control: (oedema) control irrigation practices, check drainage; (viruses) avoid overlapping crops, rogue, virus resistant varieties (*Cucumber mosaic virus*); weed. If insects are a problem, use soaps or oils; possibly, synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Warts on cucurbits.

Scientific Name

Biotic causes (variety, viruses, insects) and abiotic causes (oedema).



Photo 1. Collection of gourds in a supermarket in Cincinnati, USA.

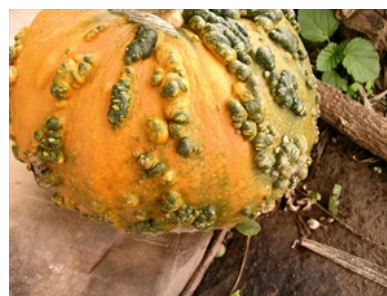


Photo 2. Squash from Bolivia, South America, said to be a varietal characteristic.



Photo 4. Oedema on pumpkin. Note that it is on one side, that facing the ground.



Photo 3. Wart-like symptoms of a pumpkin caused by oedema.



Photo 5. Both *Papaya ringspot virus* and *Zucchini yellow mosaic virus* cause fruit distortions in zucchini and pumpkin.

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Information (and Photo 3) from Lindsey du Toit Photo gallery of vegetable problems - Cucurbits, Pacific Northwest Vegetable Extension Group, Washington State University, (http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/squash.htm); and from (and Photo 4) Gerald Holmes. What are these bumps on my vegetables? Michigan State University Extension. (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what_are_these_bumps_on_my_vegetables). Photos 1&2 Eric Boa, UK. Photo 5 *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, et al. CSIRO Publishing.

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