



United States Department of Agriculture

Plum Pox Virus Survey in Progress

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) needs your help to track and prevent the spread of an invasive plant disease called plum pox virus (PPV). PPV is the most devastating viral disease of stone fruit worldwide.

To see if this disease is in your area, we are inspecting residential landscape plants that are susceptible to PPV. Our goal is to find new infestations early—before the disease can spread. Your cooperation is essential to conduct a full, complete survey and to help stop the spread of this unwanted disease.

Thank you for helping us safeguard America's agriculture.



PPV symptoms on a yellow-fleshed peach (*European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization Archive, Bugwood.org*)



PPV symptoms on a peach leaf (*Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Bugwood.org*)



PPV symptoms on apricot fruit and leaf (*John Hammond, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org*)



Q. Is PPV a serious disease?

A. Yes. PPV is a serious plant disease and a major threat to U.S. agriculture. It severely reduces fruit yield and quality, rendering fruit that is blemished and unmarketable. Stone fruit species that are susceptible to PPV include almonds, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, and plums, among others. PPV can also infect wild and ornamental plants, such as Korean cherry (also known as oriental bush cherry), purple leaf plum, and American wild plum. If allowed to become established in the United States, our agricultural production will be impacted and our trading partners may restrict or prohibit certain U.S. stone fruit and ornamental plant exports to their countries.

Q. What are the symptoms of PPV?

A. Symptoms may include yellow or brown blotches or rings on leaves or fruit; severely deformed and bumpy fruit; leaf distortion and drop; and deformed, discolored seeds. They vary in type and severity based on the virus strain, infected species, season, location, and other factors. Sometimes infected trees show no symptoms at all. In fact, newly infected trees rarely show symptoms.

Q. How does PPV spread?

A. PPV is most commonly spread over relatively short distances by aphids, tiny insects that transmit the disease while feeding. The aphids suck sap from infected plants and then carry the virus to healthy plants. At least 20 different aphid species can transmit PPV throughout an orchard and to other trees in nearby orchards, forests, and residential areas. The disease is typically spread long distances when people move infected plants.

Q. How often will USDA inspect for PPV in my area?

A. Inspections may be required annually in some areas.

Q. How can I support the PPV survey?

A. Talk to your family and friends about the survey and why it's important. Also, please allow survey personnel to enter your yard and sample leaves from your shrubs and trees. We need your cooperation to help detect PPV and keep it from spreading.

Q. Does PPV make people or animals sick?

A. No. PPV does not harm people or animals.

Q. Where can I get more information about PPV?

A. You can learn more about this disease at www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/plumpox. If you have questions about the survey, please call the phone number provided on the front.