

1959

EC59-1830 Plant Diseases : Tomato Mosaic

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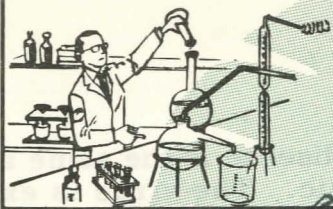
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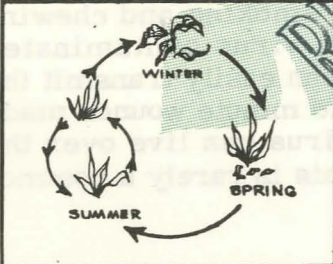


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Tomato Mosaic

SYMPTOMS

Tomato mosaic is a very common virus disease in garden plantings. Ordinarily this disease causes a light and dark-green mottling of the tomato foliage, accompanied by some curling and distortion of the leaflets. Plants may be somewhat stunted if infected when small. Those infected after they reach the fruiting stage are not reduced much in the size or number of fruits.

Certain yellow strains of the virus cause a striking yellow mottling and curling of the leaves. This yellow mosaic may cause severe stunting and serious reduction in yield.



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CAUSE

The virus which causes this disease is the same as that which causes tobacco mosaic. The virus is extremely hardy and is common in smoking and chewing tobaccos. From the tobacco the virus contaminates hands, doorknobs and tools. You can easily transmit the virus from contaminated hands into minute wounds made when handling the plants. The virus can live over the winter in old diseased foliage but this is rarely a common source of infection.

CONTROL

It is important to prevent infection of the seedlings, since after the disease is once established in the field or greenhouse there is little that can be done to prevent its spread during the handling and pruning necessary to produce the crop.

1. Avoid unnecessary handling of seedlings.
2. Your hands should be washed with soap and water before seedlings are handled.
3. Do not smoke or chew while handling seedlings.
4. Weeds should be kept down in the vicinity of seedbeds and fields in order to prevent infection from weed hosts.
5. Mosaic seedlings found in seed beds or cold frames should be removed at once without being brushed against the healthy plants. Wash your hands thoroughly.

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