

## Nepoviruses

### What are they?

There are a number of exotic viral diseases of strawberry in the *nepovirus* group. At least four viruses from this group affect strawberry (including Arabis mosaic virus, Raspberry ringspot virus, Tomato black ring virus and Strawberry latent ringspot virus)

These viruses can have varying levels of economic importance to strawberries, ranging from symptomless infection and plant death. These viruses are also of quarantine significance worldwide, and could result in restrictions being placed on the export of Australian produce (including strawberries and other crops).

### What to look for?

Nepovirus infections can vary from symptomless infection right through to mosaics, mottling, chlorotic ring spots (see figures on left) and sometimes necrosis, particularly in the presence of more than one virus. Strawberry plants can be dwarfed and stunted and in some cases eventual death of the plant can occur. Plants may recover and show few or no symptoms, but remain stunted.

If you find any symptoms that look like these you should report them to check that they are not these exotic viruses.



Strawberry plants showing symptoms of Arabis mosaic virus infection

Central Science Laboratory, Harpenden Archive



Chlorotic streaking in a leaf of strawberry cultivar Talisman infected with tomato black ring nepovirus

A.T. Jones, Scottish Crop Research Institute





Strawberry latent ringspot virus infected rose leaves

Plant Protection Service Archive, Plant Protection Service

## Where are they found?

These viruses are mostly exotic to Australia. There have been isolated reports of Arabis mosaic virus and Tomato ring spot virus each in a single restricted location in Australia, however there are no reports of spread. Anything found in Australia is of quarantine significance and should be reported.

## How can I protect my farm from exotic nepoviruses?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common strawberry pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**



Raspberry ringspot nepovirus infection in strawberry cultivar Huxley, showing irregularly shaped chlorotic blotches, some with a necrotic centre

SCRI-Dundee Archive, Scottish Crop Research Institute



Arabis mosaic virus symptoms on raspberry

Central Science Laboratory, Harpenden Archive

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## Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Strawberry Industry, visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au), email [admin@phau.com.au](mailto:admin@phau.com.au) or phone (02) 6215 7700.