Iris yellow spot virus

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Plant Health AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED PEST

What crops does it affect?

Onion, shallot, leek, garlic, roses, and *Rubus* species.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Leaves, roots, whole plant, bulbs.

What should I look for?

Symptoms of iris yellow spot virus (IYSV) consist of eyespot to diamond-shaped, yellow, light-green or straw-coloured wounds (sometimes dead-looking) on the leaves, scape and bulb leaves of onion and other Allium host species. In the early stages of infection, lesions appear as oval, concentric rings. Some green islands can be observed within the necrotic lesions. They usually originate around a thrips feeding point. Infected leaves eventually fall over at the point of infection during the latter part of the growing season. Severely infected fields will age prematurely, and entire areas will turn brown before they collapse. Symptom severity is dependent on host cultivar, timing of infection, overall health of the host at the time of infection, and environmental conditions IYSV does not always kill its host, however, the virus reduces plant vigour, disturbs photosynthesis and reduces bulb size. IYSV infection weakens the plants making them more susceptible to other diseases and pests. IYSV-infected onions grown for seed have reduced seed yield and quality.

Distribution in Australia

New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.

State movement controls or impacted markets

Restrictions for produce entering Tasmania.

How does it spread?

Vectored by *Thrips tabaci*.

Iris yellow spot virus on onion leaf.

Ronald D. Gitaitis, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Extensive leaf lesions on heavily affected plant.

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

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