

Lettuce dieback associated virus



Lettuce dieback is a soil-borne disease caused by two closely related viruses from the family *Tombusviridae* *Tomato Bushy Stunt Virus* (TBSV) and *Lettuce Necrotic Stunt Virus* (LNSV) that has been reclassified as *Moroccan Pepper Virus* (MPV). The disease has been observed throughout the main lettuce producing areas of California and Arizona.

This year we have been receiving some samples that looked like lettuce dieback disease. The samples came positive for a new virus named as Lettuce dieback associated virus and negative for tomato bushy stunt virus. In the past we have seen symptoms in resistant cultivars (with Tvr1 gene) which suggests that the new virus is involved in the symptomology.

The virus is soilborne, and has been found to have more correlation with the dieback disease more than *Tomato bushy stunt virus*. Flooding or poor drainage, high salinity, plant stress, and soil saturation have been associated with high incidence of virus .

If you have plants showing symptoms of Tomato bushy stunt virus, please bring the samples to Yuma Plant Health Clinic for diagnosis.