

Plum Pox Virus (PPV)

Potyvirus

Synonyms

Sharka virus

Plant Hosts

Major hosts: *Prunus armeniaca* (apricot), *Prunus domestica* (plum), *Prunus dulcis* (almond), *Prunus persica* (peach)

Minor hosts: *Junglas regia* (walnut), *Prunus avium* (sweet cherry), *Prunus besseyi* (bessey cherry), *Prunus salicina* (Japanese plum), *Prunus spinosa* (blackthorne), *Prunus tomentosa* (Nanking cherry tree)

Wild hosts: *Prunus cerasifera* (myrobalan plum), *Prunus glandulosa* (flowering almond)

Symptoms

Many trees do not show symptoms for up to three years after initial infection. Symptoms can be severe on many cultivars of apricots, plum and peach trees. However, the type and severity of symptom development depends on the particular cultivar. Sweet and sour cherries recently were confirmed as natural hosts. Symptoms may appear on leaves or fruit of infected trees and are evident on leaves in the spring when chlorotic spots, bands or rings, vein clearing, and even leaf deformation is evident. Infected fruits show chlorotic spots or rings, and diseased plums and apricots are deformed with internal browning of the flesh and pale rings or spots on the stones. Much of the infected fruit drops prematurely 20 to 30 days before the normal maturing date, and fruit that does remain on the tree lacks flavor and is low in sugar. Symptoms, however, are highly variable.



Image provided by Biologische Bundesanstalt from Landung, Germany.

Transmission

The virus is spread by aphids feeding from tree to tree. It is also spread through infected budwood or nursery stock.

Geographic Distribution

The virus is known to be in Adams County, Pennsylvania, Argentina, Chile, Europe, Michigan, Niagara County, New York, Nova Scotia, Canada and Ontario, Canada.

Regulations

Plum pox virus is a federally regulated virus.