



# Pepino mosaic virus

## Biosecurity measures to protect your business



The pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) was recently found in a small number of commercial tomato greenhouses.

This virus can cause disease in tomatoes, with leaf damage and mottling or marbling of the tomato fruit skin.

Biosecurity New Zealand is working with partner Tomatoes New Zealand to determine the scale of the problem and how it can be managed in future.

There are some simple measures you can take to protect your crop and business from this virus and other diseases.

### Staff

- ✓ Keep a register of staff and contractors entering greenhouses.
- ✓ Where possible have different staff working in the production and packing areas to avoid crossover of any infection if present.
- ✓ Make sure staff do not work at any other tomato farms or sites on the same day they are at your site.
- ✓ No-one should bring plant material or fruit into your facility. Limit the use of mobile phones, laptops, pens and paper when in a greenhouse – if a phone is required it should be in a plastic cover that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- ✓ Jewellery and watches should not be worn in greenhouses and glasses should be cleaned and disinfected upon entry and exit of greenhouses.
- ✓ Everyone should disinfect hands when entering and leaving greenhouses.
- ✓ Have footbaths filled with fresh disinfectant at greenhouse entrances and exits.
- ✓ Where practical, have two sets of tools that can be changed and disinfected between each row – use fresh gloves.
- ✓ All staff and contractors should wear disposable coveralls and shoes/boots, or assigned clothing that is regularly laundered.
- ✓ When exiting, dispose of single use boots, gloves and coveralls into bins specifically provided for this purpose.
- ✓ Coveralls that are not disposable must be left in a bin for laundering and boots must be cleaned prior to exiting.

### Greenhouse operations

- ✓ Where practical, do not share crates, pallets and boxes with other businesses/farms/producers.
- ✓ When disposing of waste material to landfill, bag, enclose or cover where possible so materials do not come out of waste bins during transportation.
- ✓ Have a spray/removal programme in place for any weed solanaceous plants that may be growing on property outside the of the glasshouses.



### Where you suspect PepMV (or any other disease) in your operation

- ✓ Inspect plants regularly and if you notice anything unusual about a plant, report it immediately to MPI (0800 80 99 66).
- ✓ When taking samples, make sure all sampled material is double bagged and disinfect the outside of the packaging.

### If you have PepMV infection (or any other disease) on site

- ✓ Always work in infected or suspected areas of your facility last.
- ✓ Do not move tools, equipment, carts and crates from infected to non-infected areas.

**If you suspect PepMV or other exotic disease in your crop, contact Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66**