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Gerbera: Mottling and Necrotic Spotting

An infection by the impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) of gerbera resulted in leaf mottling and necrotic leaf spots.



The two most common viruses reported on gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii*) are impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) and tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV). Problems mostly occur in random cases, but when either virus is present along with western flower thrips, extensive damage can be observed.

Plant Symptoms

At one greenhouse this spring, they have been fighting western flower thrips continuously. Unfortunately, INSV was also present (Fig. 1). With ger-



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Figure 1. Necrotic ring spotting on gerbera caused by INSV.

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bera, the initial symptoms are typically a light green mottling (Fig. 2). Ring spots may also be present. With advanced symptoms, the distinct necrotic line pattern will be visible on leaves (Figs. 3 and 4).

Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) was confirmed with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test by Mike Munster of the NC State University Plant Disease and Insect Clinic (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/extension/clinic/>).

If you suspect a virus problem, have the plants tested

by a diagnostic clinic. You can also conduct in-house testing with ELISA kits from Agdia (<http://www.agdia.com/>).

Management

Once a plant has INSV or TSWV, it cannot be cured. So discarding infected plants is the only option. Note some plants may be asymptomatic but still have INSV or TSWV. Thus with the primary method of spreading these viruses is by Western Flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) feeding, it is critical to keep them under control.

Note: if you notice ring spots on gerbera, have the plants tested for virus.

Additional INSV Information

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/production/note120.html>

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/flowers/ort072e/ort072e.htm>

<http://ncsupdicblog.blogspot.com/2012/01/sample-of-week-insv-on-cyclamen.html>

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Figure 2. Close up of mottling and a ring spot on gerbera leaves caused by INSV.



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Figure 3. Another view of ring spots and necrosis with an INSV infection of gerbera.



Figure 4. Pattern of necrosis due to an INSV infection of gerbera.

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