

Potato Virus Y (PVY) Management In Tobacco



TOBACCO RESEARCH BOARD
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Free diagnosis and advisory on all tobacco related problems

What is PVY?

PVY is a viral disease affecting tobacco and other crops related to tobacco such as potatoes, tomatoes and peppers.

How is PVY transmitted?

1. Aphids
2. Mechanical transfer when working on the farm
3. Farm implements
4. Leaf-to-leaf contact between or within rows
5. Other insects not yet documented.



Whole Plant with PVY

What must a farmer do to prevent PVY?

To restrict the incidence and spread of PVY and other diseases, **LEGISLATION** stipulates that:

1. Tobacco seed **may not be sown** before 1 JUNE each year
2. Tobacco **may not be transplanted** into the land before 1 SEPTEMBER of any year.
3. Tobacco plants in seedbeds **MUST BE DESTROYED** before 1 JANUARY each year.
4. Tobacco plants in the land **MUST BE DESTROYED** before 15 MAY each year.

AND

1. Use aphicide treated seed available from Kutsaga Seeds.
2. Use aphicides such as Imidacloprid and Thiamethoxam, at planting to manage aphids.
3. Crop **should be kept free** from insect pests at all times.
4. Practice hygiene whenever handling plants or working in the tobacco lands.

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No Curative measures are currently available for PVY!

Are there any tobacco varieties resistant to PVY?

Currently, there are **NO tobacco varieties** resistant to PVY in Zimbabwe.

What must a farmer do when tobacco plants are already infected with PVY?

Uproot the infected plants, place them in a sack to avoid infecting healthy plants, and bury them outside the field.

Various PVY Symptoms on tobacco



Necrotic veins



Bronzing



Necrotic veins



Vein banding



Necrotic spots



Chlorotic rings

All pictures courtesy of Tertu Sigobodhla

What is TRB doing to address the PVY issue?

1. Research is underway to breed for PVY resistant tobacco varieties. Good progress has been made so far and a number of tobacco lines are currently being evaluated for resistance against PVY.
2. However, it will be a number of years before PVY resistant varieties can be released.
3. Therefore, growers are urged to observe the legislation guiding the sowing, planting and growing of tobacco.

For more information, call or visit the Kutsaga Plant Clinic

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