

Wisconsin Horticulture Update (WHU)

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The three most important ways to manage plant viruses in crops are all the same

Prevention....Prevention....Prevention

Unlike other pathogenic problems...once a plant is infected with a virus there are no practical methods to mitigate the problem....it's often best to murder the infected individual to remove it as a source of virus

The best ways to prevent initial infections and or spread within a crop are:

Resistant varieties (by far the best option)

These include host genes and GMO virus resistance

Certified planting materials

Avoiding or controlling biological vectors (Insecticides, anti-feedants (oil spray)

Cultural practices to assist with C such as

Timing of planting

Border crops

Reflective mulches

Minimize virus reservoir hosts in your operation

i.e. weeds around fields, source plants in a garden or greenhouse operation
etc.

Diagnosis is an important tool in these efforts

Most viruses have a vector and it is important to know what that is so control can be properly deployed.

To plan for the future by not retaining infected material such as potato tubers, cuttings, bulbs and root material etc.