

Little leaf of brinjal

This graft transmissible disease was first reported from Coimbatore by Thomas and Krishnaswamy in 1933. There is hardly any variety of brinjal which is resistant to this disease.

Symptoms → Diseased plants show extreme reduction in the size of their leaves and nodes, internodes, a bushy and stunted appearance. The lamina becomes soft, glabrous and pale green. In thorny varieties the thorns are a or absent. Axillary and lateral buds are stimulated into growth. In case of heavy infection, flowering and fruiting is completely inhibited. Wires and p flowers are very common (Anjanayulu & Ramkrishnan, 1972).

Causal Organism → The disease is now known to be caused by mycoplasma (Verma et al 1969). The pathogen remains confined to the phloem.

Transmission → The disease is transmitted by Hishimonus phytolias. Bitter melon, ground gourd, water melon, mentha, sunhemp, carrot, Solanum xanthocarpum are good hosts of the vectors which leaf, castor, soyabean, Chenopodium amarantifolium are suitable hosts for oviposition.

Control → (i) The affected plants should be removed and burnt.

(ii) Spray of Metasystox (repeatedly) 6ml in 3 liters of water before the fruit set, is practiced to control the insect vector. Such spray should not be carried after the fruit setting starts.

(iii) Anjaneyulu and Ramkrishnan (1969, 1972) and Varma et al (1973) reported tetracycline therapy to be effective in control this disease. spraying with tetracycline at 500 ppm suppresses the symptoms.

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Control of disease

Tetracycline