

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus Update

Central California Processing Tomato Production Areas

March 12, 2011

1. TSWV-infected weeds detected!

Controlling weeds now is critical for TSWV management in 2011 tomatoes. TSWV has been detected in over-wintering weeds and crops in processing tomato production areas in central California. In the Five Points area, sowthistle plants collected from a vineyard tested positive for TSWV (4 TSWV-positive/10 sampled). The likelihood of early infection in tomatoes will decrease if the number of TSWV-infected weeds in the area can be reduced. This will be especially important as the temperatures increase and thrips become more mobile. If infected weeds are suspected near tomato plants or other susceptible crops, use a herbicide or disk to eliminate this important source of TSWV. This is particularly important this season, as there were high levels of thrips and TSWV infection in some tomato and lettuce fields in fall 2010.

2. Spring lettuce: low thrips populations and no TSWV.

Overwinter thrips activity in spring lettuce fields in the Huron/Five Points areas in Fresno County has been very low, as determined by yellow sticky cards collected every 2 weeks (0 to 10 thrips per card). Consistent with this result, no TSWV-infected lettuce has been found in this area.

3. Winter radicchio: low thrips populations and a low TSWV incidence.

In Merced, thrips populations in winter radicchio fields were low, and low rates of TSWV (less than 5%) were detected. However, in some harvested fields, regrowth of disked radicchio plants has tested positive for TSWV.

4. Regrowth of lettuce and radicchio plants after harvest can be a source of thrips and/or TSWV for subsequent tomato crops.

As in the past, we have observed fields where regrowth of disked/plowed lettuce or radicchio plants are infected with TSWV and harboring populations of thrips. Thus, if field conditions allow, crop residues need to be disked and thoroughly incorporated shortly after harvest to eliminate any potential for regrowth.

Sowthistle plants with TSWV symptoms.



Your farm advisor should be contacted if you suspect TSWV.

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