

Mini data sheet on *Watermelon chlorotic stunt begomovirus*

Added in 2000 - Deleted in 2007

**Reasons for deletion:**

*Watermelon chlorotic stunt begomovirus* has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2007, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

*Watermelon chlorotic stunt begomovirus*

Why	This virus came to our attention because it causes a serious disease of cucurbits in Iran, Sudan and Yemen. Its presence is suspected in Greece.
Where	<b>Africa:</b> Sudan. <b>Asia:</b> Iran, Yemen. <b>EPPO region:</b> symptoms of the disease have been observed in Greece in June 1996, on watermelons in Elia and Trikala prefectures (Bem & Paplomatas, 2001). However, the presence of <i>Watermelon chlorotic stunt begomovirus</i> has not yet been confirmed. Found in 2002 in Israel (under official control).
On which plants	Watermelons ( <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> ), melons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> ). It can also be found on: snake cucumber ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> var. <i>flexuosus</i> ), <i>Cucurbita moschata</i> , squash, wild cucurbits: <i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> and <i>Cucumis melo</i> var. <i>agrestis</i> .
Damage	Symptoms are characterized by yellow veins, chlorotic mottling, severe stunting of young leaves, and drastically reduced fruit yield. High disease incidence (up to 100%) and severe losses are reported in countries where the disease is present.
Transmission Pathway	<i>Bemisia tabaci</i> biotype B. Infected cucurbit plants for planting, fruits? viruliferous <i>B. tabaci</i> from countries where <i>Watermelon chlorotic stunt begomovirus</i> occurs.
Possible risks	Cucurbits are important crops in the EPPO region. Melons and watermelons are particularly important for southern Europe. The insect vector <i>B. tabaci</i> is widespread.
Source(s)	Bananej, K.; Ahoonmanesh, A.; Kheyr-Pour, A. (2002) Host range of an Iranian isolate of <i>Watermelon chlorotic stunt virus</i> as determined by whitefly-mediated inoculation and agroinfection, and its geographical distribution. <i>Journal of Phytopathology</i> , 150(8-9), 423-430. Bedford, I.D.; Briddon, R.W.; Jones, P.; Alkaff, N.; Markham, P.G. (1994) Differentiation of three whitefly-transmitted geminiviruses from the Republic of Yemen. <i>European Journal of Plant Pathology</i> , 100(3-4), 243-257. Bem, F.; Paplomatas, E.J. (2001) Occurrence of the disease "Watermelon chlorotic stunt" in Greece. Abstract of a paper presented at the 9 <sup>th</sup> Hellenic Phytopathological Congress, Athens, Greece, 1998-10-20/22. <i>Phytopathologia Mediterranea</i> , 40(1), p 80. Dafalla, G.A.; Lecoq, H.; Kheyr-Pour, A.; Gronenborn, B. (1994) Disease and pest outbreaks. Sudan. A whitefly-transmitted geminivirus associated with yellowing disease of watermelons in Sudan. <i>Arab and Near East Plant Protection Newsletter</i> , no. 19, p 39. Kheyr-Pour, A.; Bananej, K.; Dafalla, G.A.; Caciagli, P.; Noris, E.; Ahoonmanesh, A.; Lecoq, H.; Gronenborn, B. (2000) Watermelon chlorotic stunt virus from the Sudan and Iran: sequence comparisons and identification of a whitefly-transmission determinant. <i>Phytopathology</i> , 90(6), 629-635. NPPO of Israel, 2003-12.
EPPO RS 2000/159, 2001/149, 2002/179, 2003/164	
Panel review date	2007-03
	Entry date 2000-10