

Cranberry

Crop Management Newsletter

UW
Extension
Cooperative Extension



*Your county
extension office*

This Issue:

**Survey for Tobacco
Streak Virus** |

**Sample Collection
Protocol** 2



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Volume XXVI Issue 4

July 23, 2013

SURVEY FOR TOBACCO STREAK VIRUS

Patty McManus and Lindsay Wells

UW-Extension Fruit Crops Specialist and UW-Madison Plant Pathology

In 2012 Tobacco Streak Virus (TSV) was associated with scarred and/or shriveled cranberry fruit in Wisconsin at three marshes near Warrens. This year we have confirmed TSV at two of the three sites affected in 2012. We are expanding the survey and encourage growers to submit samples free of charge either through your crop consultant or directly to us. See submission instructions elsewhere in this newsletter. You may also drop off samples with Lindsay or Patty at the Mini-sessions in the lunch area at the summer field day. The purpose of this survey is to inform growers of their status regarding TSV and to help us figure out the extent of the problem in Wisconsin.

Why test for TSV?

Why should you care about TSV if you have not seen scarring? Put simply, viruses are not to be trusted. They can lie dormant without causing visible symptoms, but then under certain environmental conditions or in combination with another virus, problems arise. Viruses readily mutate and quickly can go from benign to bad. We are working on it, but currently we don't know what impact TSV has on yield. In some other crops, viruses can reduce yields without causing visible symptoms.

Since there is nothing you can spray to cure plants of viruses, what good is it to know whether you have TSV? Ignorance may be bliss, but to borrow a quote from the movie *Animal House*, "knowledge is good." Our research and survey data will provide some clues about how the virus spreads and possibly where it came from, and this information will be used to develop management guidelines. Knowing if TSV is present or not at additional locations will also help us determine if TSV is the cause of berry scarring.

We will not reveal the identity of marshes or growers who submit samples, whether they test positive or negative. When we report survey results in public, we will refer to towns and/or counties, and in the case of remote marshes, we will be even more vague, using terms such as "northern Wisconsin." In the event that we do find TSV at additional sites, we will work with those growers on management decisions.



2013 Tobacco Streak Virus Survey

Sample Collection Protocol

Patty McManus, psm@plantpath.wisc.edu 608-265-2047 office, 608-692-8930 cell
Lindsay Wells, ldwells@wisc.edu 609-354-8645 cell

1. Collect 10 uprights from an area within a bed. This will be one sample. Place the 10 uprights into a plastic bag, and poke a few small holes in the bag for ventilation.
2. Repeat Step 1 in 2 to 3 additional areas within the same bed. This will give us 3 to 4 samples per bed (3 to 4 bags, each containing 10 uprights).
3. Label each sample bag with the following information using indelible marker:
 - a. Bed number or name
 - b. Variety
 - c. Sampling date
4. Send samples to: Lindsay Wells
Department of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
 - a. Provide your contact information, the nearest town/city or the county from which the samples were taken, approximate bed age, and any other relevant information.
 - b. If possible, send samples earlier in the week (M-W) to ensure timely shipping and processing of samples.
 - c. Whenever samples are sent, and especially if samples are sent later in the week, please call, text, or email Lindsay so that she can be ready for the samples.

****Please keep samples cool whenever possible. Avoid keeping samples in hot vehicles or in direct sunlight, especially once the samples are placed into plastic bags.**

References to products in this publication are for your convenience and are not an endorsement of one product over similar products. You are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from pe