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Plan launched to tackle plant virus in NSW

22 Apr 2010

An infestation of the exotic plant virus Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) in a NSW Central Coast production nursery has been contained and an eradication plan is underway, according to Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW).

“Plant biosecurity staff are taking proactive steps in collaboration with [Nursery & Garden Industry Australia \(NGIA\)](#) to eradicate the infestation affecting a single NSW production nursery,” said Satendra Kumar, Director Plant Biosecurity with I&I NSW.

“The infected plants have been contained on the production site and a survey of the surrounding area and a number of production and retail nurseries in NSW has shown that the virus has not spread.”

Dr Kumar said INSV can be a significant virus of ornamental crops with over 300 potential host plant species including impatiens, begonias, gerberas and lisianthus.

“The virus is widespread in the western world but has not previously been found in Australia,” he said.

“It has the potential to cause significant economic damage to the local and national nursery industry.”

“Affected plants develop yellow spots mainly on the mature leaves which reduces the plants’ appeal to potential buyers. In severe cases the virus can lead to plant death.”

Dr Kumar commended the owner of the infected production nursery who reported the disease symptoms early and has been cooperating with the tracing and containment efforts.

“The owner’s early report has been significant in ensuring the disease has not spread.

“The nursery industry representative organisation NGIA has endorsed the NSW position and has also been very supportive of the approach to rid this disease from the property.”

Dr Kumar said the eradication strategy involves destroying the infected plant material, disinfecting the production nursery and controlling [Western Flower Thrips](#), the insect that spreads the virus.

“The production nursery is expected to get a clean bill of health within a short period of time.”

Further reading

[Western flower thrips \(WFT\) insecticide resistance management plan](#)

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