22 July 2016

BIOSECURITY ALERT

Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus detection in WA

Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) has been detected in Geraldton on a symptomatic cucumber leaf sample submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA).

Although melons can be affected by this virus, no melons have been grown on the property in the past few years. The closest known melon crops are located 15-20km away.

DAFWA is conducting trace-back to determine the source of the infection.

DAFWA does not intend to take any regulatory action or quarantine properties. CGMMV had been detected in Australia for the first time in the Northern Territory in 2014, and then in Queensland in 2015. A national response to CGMMV was launched in late 2014 to manage the spread of CGMMV in Australia and mitigate economic impact. The National Management Group determined that it was not technically feasible to eradicate CGMMV.

The virus is now a pest of national significance and a National Management Plan is being prepared by national industry groups with input from State and Commonwealth governments. DAFWA will assist growers to implement the CGMMV National Management Plan which is nearing completion.

The most likely pathway CGMMV came to Australia is via infected seed. Since November 2014 all cucurbit seed lines entering Australia have been subjected to increased levels of testing for CGMMV.

If you have older seed lines that entered Australia prior to November 2014, it is recommended you have them tested using the more stringent testing regime for CGMMV. More information on submitting symptomatic leaf samples and seeds is available from DAFWA’s [website](https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bacteria/plant-disease-diagnostics) or by contacting the department’s Diagnostic Laboratory Service (DDLS) on (08) 9368 3351.

Any suspect signs of CGMMV should be reported to DAFWA’s Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881.

The CSIRO recently released information that low levels of CGMMV had been found in honeybees (through infected pollen) in several States, indicating that the disease may have a wider distribution than is currently known, and that it may have been present for a long period of time.

WA is currently involved with two research projects to improve the understanding of CGMMV and develop management strategies for its control.

DAFWA would like to remind growers to observe strict on-farm biosecurity practices to minimise the risk of introducing and spreading the disease. An information sheet, including a multi-lingual version, providing farm biosecurity information specific to CGMMV and horticulture growers will be shortly available.

A workshop for local growers to discuss the management of CGMMV, and in particular farm biosecurity measures will be held on Wednesday 27 July, 4.30pm at DAFWA’s Geraldton office. For more information on the workshop contact Carlene Bryant on 9956 8555.

Current updates will be available from DAFWA’s [CGMMV web page](https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/plant-biosecurity/cucumber-green-mottle-mosaic-virus).

**John van Schagen**

**DAFWA Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer**

More information

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**CGMMV workshop, DAFWA Geraldton Office:**

**Wednesday 27 July, 4.30pm**

20 Gregory Street, Geraldton

Contact Carlene Bryant on 9956 8555

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