

Department of Agriculture and Food





Decontamination guidelines Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV)

Soil and plant material attached to vehicles, tools, footwear and clothes are the main pathway for the spread of the virus. Decontamination measures for people, vehicles and equipment should be in place on your property to help prevent infection or spread of the virus to crops.

General guidelines

All equipment, vehicles, clothing and surfaces that may have come into contact with any part of cucurbit plants must be disinfected.

- Keep farm vehicles clean by clearing the vehicle floor of soil
- Where possible, use your own vehicle to transport visitors around your farm
- In farm production areas keep vehicle movement to a minimum, particularly on wet soil
- Stick to regular pathways through each block
- Always ensure visiting vehicles, and borrowed or second hand equipment and machinery is clean of all plant material and soil before they enter your farm

Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus is a serious virus of cucurbit crops and can cause substantial crop losses



You will need...

Clean water

Use a clean water supply that has not flowed over agricultural soil planted to crops, and is from an uncontaminated tank or system capable of removing organisms (eg. chlorinated town water).

Equipment

- Air compressor or blower
- High pressure water cleaner, preferably a mobile water tanker or spray unit. A garden hose may be adequate for small clean downs
- Brooms, brushes, scrapers, dust buster and dust pans for cleaning vehicle cabins and dislodging caked-on mud
- A large tarpaulin to clean smaller equipment
- Strong plastic bags for sealing items for disposal
- Approved cleaning and decontamination solutions
- Plastic footbath and bucket to disinfect boots and equipment
- Hand sanitiser and/or soap with a minimum of 5 litres of clean water

Wash-down facility

A wash-down facility will ensure any potential pest or disease is contained to a manageable area.

Supporting your success

Important

Wash-down facility

- Ensure the facility is well away from crops, waterways and drainage areas
- The facility should be close to property or production block entry and exit points
- To prevent run-off to waterways, enclose the area where the wash down occurs
- Ensure any run-off is directed away from paddocks, crops and waterways
- Have a sump to collect any waste water
- Try to contain waste water for as long as possible to allow for biodegradation of compounds (10 to 14 days is usually sufficient)
- Disposal of contained wastewater can be done via absorption and evaporation methods
- Locate facility on level ground, preferably concrete, bitumen or gravel
- Regularly check areas around the facility for new pests, diseases or weeds



Wash-down process

Wash-down should include cleaning to remove dirt and plant material from vehicles, machinery and equipment, followed by disinfection to kill or inactivate virus particles.

Step 1 – Cleaning

- In the first instance use compressed air for removing dry material to clean areas such as radiators
- Prior to disinfection, use a detergent-based cleanser with a high pressure hose to ensure all surfaces are visibly free from soil and plant material
- Clean from the top down and pay particular attention to mud guards, protective plates and underneath the vehicle
- Use a tarpaulin for smaller tools and equipment to avoid recontamination

Step 2 - Disinfection

Use a broad spectrum disinfectant on surfaces that can come into contact with soil, such as tyres, axels, mud guards on vehicles, or blades on rotary hoes.

 Potassium peroxymonosulphate (Virkon S) is recommended for vehicles, machinery and tools. Mix as per label instructions and apply with a spray pack. As it is corrosive avoid contact with paint and glass. It can be rinsed off following application

Important disclaimer

- Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is effective but needs exposure of 30-60 minutes. Pallets and plastic containers can be soaked in bleach and left to dry
- Un-used product can be stored for several days - see label instructions

Step 3 – Rinsing and documenting

Following disinfection, rinse all surfaces with clean water. Ensure waste water drains into the sump.

Record details of each clean down and decontamination in machinery log books.

People

All personnel and visitors who have entered production areas must follow decontamination guidelines. Particularly the decontamination of boots/ footwear, clothing, reusable gloves and hats.

- Brush down clothing and remove soil from boots (check the tread)
- · Thoroughly wash hands with a sanitizer
- Have a foot bath filled with potassium peroxymonosulphate (Virkon S), placed on a hard surface or plastic sheet. Step boots in and out of the foot bath to ensure that all contact areas are soaked with solution
- Dispose of chemical in footbaths at the end of each day into the wash-down facility sump

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