

(revision date:6/3/2014)

## ***Pepper, Eggplant: Curly top (Western yellow blight)***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Curly top is caused by a virus transmitted by the beet leafhopper. Many crops are affected, including tomato, bean, squash, cucumber, and pepper. Typical symptoms of the disease include puckering and downward curling of leaves, followed by a general yellowing of the plant and death of young plants. Older plants are yellowed and dwarfed. Leaves are thicker than normal and brittle in texture. The virus is also found in annual flowers and weeds.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Pull out and destroy infected plants.
- ~ Control of beet leafhoppers is ineffective for preventing curly top.
- ~ Since leafhoppers avoid feeding on shaded plants, shading plants (particularly when young) may help prevent infection.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

None recommended

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*Images*



~ Caption: Curly top virus symptoms on bean  
~ Photo by: G.Q. Pelter



~ Caption: Severe curly top virus symptoms on bean  
~ Photo by: G.Q. Pelter



~ Caption: Curly top virus symptoms on tomato  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther