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Ornamental Plum: Viruses

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

Biology

Virus diseases in prunes and plums cause many variable symptoms depending on the virus strain and the cultivar affected. For instance, tomato ringspot virus can cause failure of the graft union, ultimately killing trees. Trees infected with a virus may also show various symptoms of decline, collapse, or breakage, which may be confused with root rots or other disease problems. Virus disease transmission is specific for each virus. Insects, nematodes, and grafting are possible modes of transmission.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Plant and graft only with certified, virus-free stock.
- ~ Remove and destroy any trees known to be infected with viruses.
- ~ The rootstock Marianna 2624 is reported to be resistant to the tomato ringspot virus, but it produces many suckers and has a shallow root system.

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: Virus "rat-tail" symptoms
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: Cherry mottle leaf virus symptoms
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: Vein-clearing symptom of virus infection
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther