


Potato Mop-Top Virus Potato Industry Stakeholder Update 9th October 2018 - 5:00pm

<p>For information about this update, contact PMTV2018 Liaison @mpi.govt.nz</p>	<p>This update includes key information about the PMTV 2018 response from Biosecurity New Zealand and Potatoes New Zealand.</p> <p>Red text indicates where new information has been added since the last update.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potato Mop-Top Virus (PMTV) was found in New Zealand in September 2018. • Biosecurity New Zealand (part of MPI) and Potatoes New Zealand initiated a joint (GIA) response on Wednesday 19th September 2018. • The first infected potato was found during routine sampling of material at a chip processing facility. • PMTV is a plant virus that largely affects potatoes and is a Notifiable and Unwanted organism in New Zealand under the Biosecurity Act. • The virus is transmitted by the soil-borne fungus which causes Powdery scab (<i>Spongospora subterranean</i>), and can only survive long-term in the potato plant or in the fungus. • Once established in fields, the virus can survive for up to 20 years in soil in the absence of a potato crop. The infection of the potato plant can be either from the infected mother tuber, or through a current season transmission via a powdery scab infection of the roots. • If found to be established in New Zealand, PMTV is a manageable disease. The disease is established in North America and Europe where it is generally managed effectively without causing major production losses. However, where it is poorly managed, it can create a production problem for potato growers. • It is not a food safety issue. • Further surveillance has identified more farms which are suspected to be positive for PMTV. • For more information, please visit the Biosecurity New Zealand website, Potatoes NZ website, or the PMTV2018 Fact Sheet.
<p>How is potato mop top virus identified?</p> 	<p>Affected potatoes can display both foliar and tuber symptoms of varying severity. This depends on the sensitivity of the variety and the source of infection, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distortions to the skin. • deep cracking, and rust-coloured arcs, streaks or flecks in the tuber flesh. • yellow colouration on the foliar (mother tuber infections only). <p>While some varieties may show symptoms on the skin, PMTV may not be detected until the tuber is cut open. Some potatoes, while infected, may not show any symptoms at all.</p>
<p>Situation</p>	<p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infected Properties: 2 confirmed (18 suspected) • Regions with confirmed infections: Canterbury • Potato cultivars (2017/2018 season) on which PMTV has been detected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovator (30 tubers) ○ Russet Burbank (3 tubers)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018/2019 seedline testing all negative so far (Innovator, Russett Burbank and Agria testing complete). <p>Response Objectives:</p> <p>The main focus at the current time is to understand the risks associated with the possible establishment of PMTV in NZ, and minimize its impact. We are undertaking investigative work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand virus distribution and impacted crops to formulate options to manage, contain or eradicate. • Delimit and contain infection on known paddocks and processing plants, particularly focusing on processing waste contamination. • Inform affected stakeholders of potential issues while maintaining minimal alarm within the industry and in the public. • Minimise impacts to exportable potatoes and potato products to relevant trade markets. • Determine if import pathway can be identified. • Engage with industry partners and stakeholders, and work with them to effectively manage the response.
Incident Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity New Zealand and Potatoes New Zealand are responding in partnership under the Government Industry Agreement (GIA). • Response costs are pre-agreed at 50%:50% along with a transitional discount of 60% for PNZ. • Response costs will therefore be split 20% (Potatoes New Zealand): 80% (Biosecurity New Zealand).
Industry Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An industry stakeholder meeting was held in the affected region on Tuesday 25th September. Over 60 representatives of the industry were present at this meeting. • A second stakeholder meeting was held on the 2nd of October with growers, exporters and processors in Pukekohe. • A third stakeholder meeting was held on Thursday the 4th of October with growers in Palmerston North. • You will be notified of upcoming technical workshops in your area which will cover which symptoms to look for, and how to submit symptomatic tubers for testing.
Operations	<p>Response activities to date:</p> <p><i>Waste management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid potato processing waste from affected processing plants is being allowed to continue under permit. • Disposal of seed cutting by-product from affected processing plants is being allowed to resume to normal. • All processors complying with voluntary record-keeping process for disposal of solid processing waste. <p><i>Surveillance and sampling:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary sample submission of symptomatic tubers is occurring from commercial warehouses. • Tracing is underway to identify all infected farms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tubers tested for PMTV: 2986, of which there are 33 positive samples. They are all from processing potatoes from the 17/18 financial year. The property of origin for these is still to be confirmed. • 19 Innovator (2018/2019) seed lines have been tested – all negative • 8 Russet Burbank (2018/2019) seed lines have been tested – all negative • 7 Agria (2018/2019) seed lines have been tested – all negative • Sampling for Nadine (2018/2019) seed lines and Moonlight seed lines is underway. • Testing of symptomatic tubers and foliage from suspect paddocks is ongoing • Sampling and Surveillance plan approved for implementation and to encompass nationwide sampling, not just limited to the Canterbury region. North Island testing has started this week.
Intelligence / Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations continues to focus on commonalities between the infected properties. All possible pathways of introduction are under investigation. • Development of long term planning options for PMTV is underway.
Welfare support for affected individuals and businesses	<p>We know that the impact of the potato mop-top virus response may stress both you and your business. If you need a chat or more support the following groups can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Support Trust: 0800-787-254 http://www.rural-support.org.nz/ • Healthline: 0800 611 116 • Lifeline: 0800 111 757 (open 24/7) • Depression Helpline 0800 611 116 (open 24/7) • Biosecurity New Zealand PMTV Response Liaison/Welfare Team: PMTV2018_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz • Your GP or Practice Nurse
Information on detection	<p>If you believe you have a symptomatic potato please call 0800 80 99 66 or email PMTV2018_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz.</p> <p>Please refer to this factsheet for symptoms to look out for.</p> <p>You have an important role to play in protecting your farm, your region and the potato industry from biosecurity threats. PMTV can be spread on seed tubers, in soil associated with boots, in machinery, and in waste from potatoes, so on-farm hygiene practices and developing a robust farm biosecurity plan are vital to try to minimise and help control the spread of potato mop-top virus.</p>
Find out more about PMTV	<p>PMTV web page on the Biosecurity New Zealand website</p> <p>PMTV web page on the Potatoes New Zealand website</p> <p>Download the PMTV fact sheet</p>
Communication	<p>The next update will be sent on Friday the 12th of October.</p> <p>Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel will be interested.</p>

IF YOU SUSPECT PMTV:

You have an important role to play in protecting your farm, your region and the potato industry from biosecurity threats. If you suspect you have found PMTV on your property:



CALL the Biosecurity New Zealand Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on
0800 80 99 66



You can also help:

If you have a camera or phone camera, take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected potato, and a close-up of the affected area of the plant.