

POTATO Spindle Tuber Viroid



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TESTS
available at ARC-TSC**

POTATO spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) of potatoes can cause up to 40% loss in yield. Affected potato tubers are deformed with a typical elongated and cylindrical appearance, whereas foliage can be spindly, upright with leaflets rolling upwards and the plants being stunted. Other hosts affected by PSTVd include tomato and pepper, and avocado have been reported as a symptomless carrier of this viroid.

There is no chemical or biological control available

against PSTVd and therefore it is important to certify that propagation material is free from this viroid. A single report on the occurrence of PSTVd in South Africa was released in 1985, but the viroid has subsequently not been reported. It is however important to note that this viroid is an EU listed quarantine pathogen, and material being exported to the EU may have to be tested for PSTVd prior to export.

A RT-qPCR has been optimized by ARC-TSC for the detection of PSTVd according to the guidelines published in Naktuinbouw.

CONTACT DETAILS

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