



NEW: *Cannabis* Virus Testing !!!

Detection of Plant Viruses of *Cannabis* using PCR, RT-PCR and qRT-PCR assays at ARC-PHP



<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9099991/italians-share-knowledge-on-tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus-tobr/fv/>

The introduction of the licensing framework for cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis (*Cannabis sativa* L.) in South Africa has opened up new investment opportunities and as such, cannabis production has increased significantly. Medicinal cannabis is cultivated by authorized producers as a monoculture crop, which is highly susceptible to disease spread.

The plants are generally propagated via shoots (cuttings) taken from a stock (mother) plant, which could harbour undetected or latent pathogens, allowing long-distance spread of pathogens to occur. As production in South Africa increases, disease identification and management will be a growing challenge for cannabis growers. Currently, there are over 100 pathogens that affect cannabis with potential to cause economic damage.

The ARC-PHP Diagnostic Laboratory, which is DALRRD registered, has the capacity to detect all of the pathogens on **medicinal and industrial cannabis**, using appropriate and verified molecular diagnostic assays. Viruses that are known to infect cannabis include:

alfalfa mosaic virus (AMV), arabis mosaic virus (ArMV), beet curly top virus (BCTV), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV), hop latent viroid (HLVd), lettuce chlorosis virus (LCV), tomato mosaic virus (ToMV), tomato ringspot virus (TomRSV), tobacco streak virus (TSV) and tobacco ringspot virus (TRSV).

Samples can be submitted to ARC-PHP virology unit for screening. Test results will be available within two weeks after receipt of samples. Standard terms and conditions apply.

For any further enquiries and quotations

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