

# Pest alert

## Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus in Queensland



1. Mature fruit with yellow patches in otherwise ripe fruit flesh (most severe fruit symptom)



2. Bottle gourd leaf with typical mottling/mosaic symptoms



3. Necrotic spot on fruit peduncle, this symptom can extend onto the stalk



4. Mature fruit with patches of rotten or mushy flesh or cavities, whilst the rest of the fruit flesh is still quite firm

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed one case of *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (CGMMV) in Queensland. Biosecurity Queensland is asking cucurbit growers to check their crops for symptoms of CGMMV and **immediately report any signs of the virus to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.**

### Description

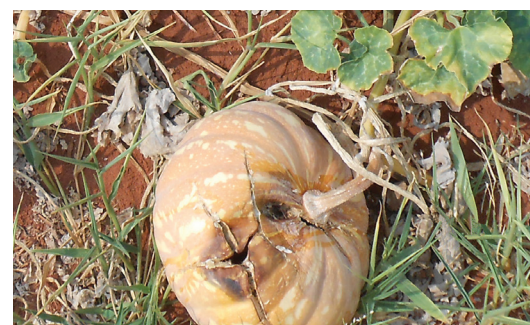
CGMMV is a virus affecting cucurbit crops. Cucurbit hosts of CGMMV include cucumber, rockmelon, watermelon, bitter-gourd, bottle gourd, zucchini, pumpkin and squash. There are a number of strains of CGMMV, with not all strains affecting all cucurbit varieties.

### Symptoms

CGMMV produces a range of symptoms on cucurbit leaves and fruit, with the severity of symptoms varying greatly between different varieties. Leaf symptoms can range from mosaic-like mottling to bleaching of leaf colour. In severe cases, as the disease progresses, infected plants can wilt and part or all of the plant dies. Some plants may not show any symptoms. On watermelon fruit, symptoms can include yellowing of the normally pink/red flesh, especially on its outer perimeter and some fruit may develop internal cavities and areas that prematurely soften and become mushy. From the outside infected fruit may appear malformed as a result of infection.



5. Misshapen cucumber fruit, caused by CGMMV



6. Pumpkin fruit split due to CGMMV infection

## Spread

CGMMV is a highly transmittable virus that can survive in water and soil. It is spread by the movement of plant material, soil, and machinery associated with cucurbit production. CGMMV can also spread by infected seed. Sucking insects such as aphids, whiteflies and mites do not spread CGMMV.

## Prevention

To prevent the spread of CGMMV, producers should:

1. Always use clean, disease-free, planting material.
2. Avoid sharing machinery and equipment associated with cucurbit production with other growers.
3. Practice good hygiene measures by ensuring shoes, clothing, equipment (including cutting tools), machinery and vehicles associated with cucurbit production are clean and free of soil and plant material before and after use.
4. Implement training programs amongst staff about CGMMV and the importance of working hygienically.
5. Display signs at the entrance of farms clearly detailing the property's biosecurity requirements to visitors.

As there is no known cure for CGMMV, preventing infection is key to protecting the health of cucurbit crops.

## If you suspect you have CGMMV

If you see plants showing symptoms of CGMMV or believe you have crops affected with the virus, you **must notify Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23**. Do not attempt to remove or destroy suspect infected plants as this may increase the risk of spread. Early detection and intervention is vital to successfully managing this virus.

## Further information

For more information about CGMMV, visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) or call Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**.