

Pest Alert: *Hop stunt viroid (HSVd)*



Fig 1. Hop plants infected with HSVd exhibiting stunted growth and yellowing. Picture by kind permission of Dr Ken Eastwell



Fig 2. HSVd infection exhibiting veinal yellowing (chlorosis). Picture by kind permission of Dr David Gent

- Pest of **hops** but can also cause a range of diseases on **cucumber, citrus top fruit, grapevine, and stone fruits**. Present in parts of **Europe** and elsewhere.
- **HSVd** can cause a range of symptoms including **stunting, yellowing (chlorosis), loss of vigour (leading to death of the vine) and reduction in flower cone metabolite quality** (alpha acids), which leads to serious economic losses.
- The pest is spread **mechanically** e.g. through pruning.
- Plant Health Phytosanitary certification can help in maintaining disease freedom of hop planting material.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk