



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Recommendation for interceptions and findings of *Spiranthes Mosaic Virus 3*

November 2014

This is the result of a brief assessment of readily available literature which indicates that statutory action against this organism is unlikely to be appropriate.

Species / Taxonomic group	<i>Spiranthes Mosaic Virus 3 (SpiMV3)</i>
Reason for assessment	<i>Spiranthes Mosaic Virus 3</i> was detected on plants of <i>Phlox</i> at a propagating nursery during routine inspections in 2013. This was the first UK finding of the virus.
Pest distribution	<i>SpiMV3</i> has only been reported from the USA. The infected <i>Phlox</i> mother plants had been imported from the Netherlands four years previously. It may be more widespread than currently reported.
Hosts	The current virus host range is reported as various species of <i>Phlox</i> and the orchid <i>Spiranthes ceruna</i> . <i>SpiMV3</i> is a potyvirus, and very likely to be transmitted in a non-persistent manner by aphids.
Pest status	Symptoms in <i>S. ceruna</i> are described as leaf distortion with mild to severe mosaic and occasional mild chlorotic blotching. Symptoms observed in <i>Phlox</i> were mild mottling and delamination of the lower epidermis of the leaf.
Potential distribution and impact	The status of the pest in the UK is unknown. The infected mother plants were destroyed, but had been used for propagation for four years. Potential aphid vectors of the pest are also widespread and common. Thus <i>SpiMV3</i> is very likely to be able to establish in the UK. Potential impacts are likely to be limited – viruses of <i>Phlox</i> are a common problem and there is no evidence that <i>SpiMV3</i> is more damaging than other viruses found in <i>Phlox</i> . Significant impacts have also not been reported in <i>S. ceruna</i> .
No statutory action is recommended because:	
The pest is likely to already be established in the UK	
Viruses of <i>Phlox</i> are a common, and many have similar symptoms, making future detection of the pest difficult.	
It is unlikely to be more damaging than other viruses of <i>Phlox</i>	