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Reiger Begonia: Mottling and Ringspots

Mottled leaves and brown ringspots on Reiger begonias were observed. Tomato spotted wilt virus was confirmed on the plant sample.

At the same greenhouse that had the confirmed tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) infected New Guinea impatiens (see e-GRO Alert 4.25), the grower also had leaf mottling and ringspots on Reiger begonias. A few plants along the bench were observed with yellow and green mottling (Fig. 1) and necrotic ringspots (Fig. 2). Luckily no western flower thrips were found on the plants to spread the disease.

A plant was tested for tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) and it was confirmed with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test from the

NC State University Plant Disease and Insect Clinic (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/extension/clinic/>).

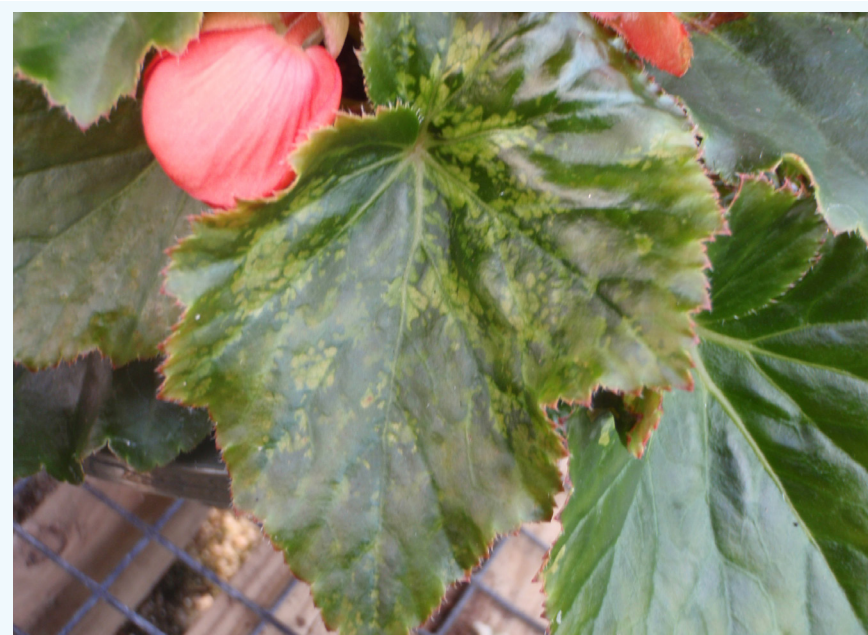


Figure 1. Mottled leaves with a TSWV infection on Reiger begonias.

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If you suspect a virus problem, have the plants tested by a diagnostic clinic. You can also conduct in-house testing with ELISA kits from Agdia (<http://www.agdia.com/>).

Management

Once a plant has TSWV or INSV, it cannot be cured. So discarding infected

plants is the only option. Note some plants may be asymptomatic but still have INSV or TSWV. Thus with the primary method of spreading these viruses is by Western Flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) feeding, it is critical to keep them under control. *See e-GRO Alert 4.18 for management options.*



Figure 2. Brown ringspots caused by a TSWV infection.

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