

# Dasheen Mosaic Virus

Farmer  
Fact Sheet

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## What is it?

It is a disease caused by a virus. It affects taro (photos, top row), kongkong taro (photo, bottom, left), edu (photo, bottom right), kakake, and ornamental plants in the same family. The virus is spread by aphids or green fly (see **Fact sheet no. 38**) or in planting material.

## Damage

Light green streaks occur along the main veins of the leaf or between the veins. Often the streaks have a feather-like shape. Sometimes, the streaks occur all over the leaf (photo, top left), but often they just show in a single patch (photo, top right). Only one or two leaves show symptoms, before healthy leaves appear. Usually, damage is slight.



## How do I identify it?

Look for leaves showing feather-like symptoms, often along the main veins, but sometime between the veins. The colour of the patterns is yellow-green or grey, clearly distinct from the green of the leaves.

## How to manage dasheen mosaic virus

There is no way to control this disease. It is probable that all taro in Solomon Islands have the virus inside them. Signs of the disease only appear occasionally; at other times the plant looks normal. Usually, damage to leaves is slight, and yields are not affected or only slightly. If leaves are severely twisted and growth is poor, put a rice bag over the plant, pull it out and burn it, together with any insects.

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