

Bhendi Vein Clearing Virus

Recognize the problem

This is a viral disease occurring on bhendi (Okra/Lady's Finger). Yellowing of the entire network of veins in the leaf blade is the characteristic symptom. In severe infections, the younger leaves turn yellow to become entirely chlorotic and the plant is highly stunted. The veins of the leaves will be cleared by the virus and interveinal area becomes completely yellow or white. The veins become considerably thickened. The infection may start at any stage of plant growth. Infection restricts flowering and fruits, if formed, may be smaller and harder. The affected plants produce fruits with yellow or white colour and they are not fit for marketing.

Background

Bhendi vein clearing virus is a serious disease of Bhendi and causes huge economic loss. The virus is spread by an insect called a whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) that sucks the cell sap from the underside of the leaves. The infection may start at any stage of plant growth

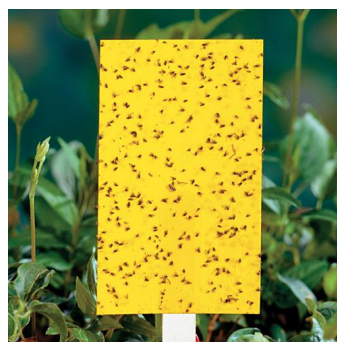
Management

- Grow resistant varieties like Parbhani Kranti, Arka Abhay, Arka Anamika and Varsha Uphar to minimise the incidence of the disease
- Maintain proper crop spacing
- Raise maize as a border crop to trap the insect thus preventing damage to main field and avoid transmittance of the disease
- During the summer season, when the whitefly activity is high, avoid growing susceptible varieties
- Set up yellow sticky traps @12/acre above the plant height to minimize the pest incidence
- Synthetic Pyrethroids should not be used because they will aggravate the situation
- When the infestation is 5-10 nymphs or adults per leaf before 9 A.M. then go for chemical control:
 - Spray acephate 75% SP @ 3 gm/ lit of water.
 - Apply chlorpyrifos 20% EC @ 2.5 ml + Neem oil @ 2 ml/ litre of water

White flies (above) Disease symptoms (below). (Photo by TNAU)



Sticky trap to attract white flies. (Photo by TNAU)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > Pathogen: **Bhendi Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus**, Insect vector: ***Bemisia tabaci***

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India



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Edited by Plantwise.