

## Rice yellow mottle (Ikivejuru)

### Recognize the problem

Rice plants infected with Rice Yellow Mottle (also called RYMV or *Ikivejuru* in Kinyarwanda) have a yellowish streaking of leaves, are smaller than normal and have fewer tillers. The panicle does not emerge from the sheath and is of a bad shape, if it emerges, and with small and usually empty spikelet.

### Background

Rice Yellow Mottle is a disease caused by a virus. The main way it is spread from plant to plant is by the feeding of insects, especially by various beetles and grasshoppers. The disease can also be spread during planting of seedlings, during hoeing and weeding, by contact between diseased and healthy plants and by rodents and mammals feeding on rice. The virus can also be spread into a rice crop from various weeds.

### Management

- Chemical pesticides will not control the disease.
- If a nursery is diseased, change its location for the next growing season.
- After harvesting burn unused rice material (such as rice straw), do not use it as a cover on the next nursery bed.
- Weed the field regularly to remove all other hosts of the virus.
- Surround your plot with a water-border to prevent rodents moving through the crop.
- Check your field regularly, remove and destroy infected plants as soon as you see them.
- Sow the seedlings at the space of 20 cm between both rows and seedlings, to reduce contact between plants.
- Use disease resistant varieties such as Mpembuke, Nemeyubutaka, Rumbuka and Ndamirabahinzi.

Yellowish streaking of leaves characteristic of RYMV. (Photo by Germain Nkima)



Rice field affected by RYMV. (Photo by Germain Nkima)



Scientific name(s) > **Rice yellow mottle virus**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Ghana, Rwanda



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Edited by Plantwise.