



Blueberry Scorch Investigation

*Blueberry Virus Update Meeting
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Detection

- 2005: Scorch testing added to MDA program
- Sept. 2008: Legacy tests presumptive positive
- MDA restricts stock movement
- Legacy plants destroyed fall 2008

Detection cont'd.

- Inconsistencies w/ late season samples
- Sample plants held in MDA greenhouse
- Confirmed positive Spring 2009
- Plants adjacent to Legacy tested negative
- All other varieties at nursery tested negative 2006-2009

Trace back

- Legacy obtained from New Jersey USDA release 1994
- Plants brought into Michigan before quarantine established
- Legacy kept in inventory & not increased until 2005
- Legacy entered into testing program 2006

Trace back

- Legacy first produced in 1970's
- USDA released the variety in 1994
- USDA release supplied from New Jersey
- Some open trading prior to 1994
- Oldest Michigan plants tested negative

Distribution of Legacy

- Movement traced to 3 Michigan farms
- Legacy tested positive at all 3
- Legacy plants destroyed by growers
- Adjacent plants sampled & tested negative
- MDA will monitor farms to assure absence of Scorch

Distribution of Legacy

- Found only in plants grown from cuttings
- No plants grown from tissue culture have tested positive
- Before 1994 USDA release, there was some trading between nurseries
- MDA conducted additional sampling at farms that may have had a connection

Other Locations of Legacy Tested

- Trevor Nichols Research Complex (TNRC)
- Southwest Michigan Research & Extension Center (SWMREC)
- Private nurseries identified through records or grower recollection

Conclusions

- Scorch appears to be limited to Legacy
- Source associated with USDA 1994 stock
- Other sources of Legacy tested negative

Conclusions

- No evidence that Scorch has been aphid transmitted in Michigan
- All known Scorch infected plants have been destroyed
- Site monitoring will occur in future years

Conclusions

- No apparent quarantine violations
- Not easily transferred to other varieties
- Good horticultural practices mitigated the outbreak
- Testing program procedures were successful in detecting the virus