



Brian E. Whipker¹



Patrick Veazie¹

Volume 14 Number 9 February 2025

Shrimp Plant: Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)

Shrimp plant (Justicia brandegeana) leaves with necrotic ringspots were observed on a plant. These symptoms are typical of what occurs with a virus. This Alert will aid in the identification of an impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) on the shrimp plant.

Justicia brandegeana is a tropical evergreen shrub native to Mexico. It is commonly called the shrimp plant, Mexican shrimp plant, or false hop. A single plant was observed in a greenhouse with necrotic ringspots (Fig. 1). The ringspots only appeared on 1 leaf (Figs. 2 and 3).



Figure 1. Plant testing positive for impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV). (Photo: Brian Whipker)

The leaves were tested for impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) and tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV). There was a confirmation of INSV with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test. 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](#). It is important to test multiple leaves from the same plant that is exhibiting symptoms.

2025 Sponsors



American
Floral
Endowment

Research
Internships
Scholarships
Education

Funding the Future of Floriculture

Ball®

fine

JR PETERS
LABORATORY
THE SCIENCE BEHIND BETTER PLANT PERFORMANCE

GRIFFIN
GREENHOUSE & NURSERY SUPPLIES



P.L. LIGHT SYSTEMS
THE LIGHTING KNOWLEDGE COMPANY

Reprint with permission from the author(s) of this e-GRO Alert.

¹NC State University, Dept. of Hort. Science
bwhipker@ncsu.edu

Management

Once a plant has either INSV or TSWV, it cannot be cured. Discarding infected plants is the only option, and this will help prevent the virus from spreading further. It is important to note that some plants may be asymptomatic, but still have TSWV or INSV. Since the primary method of spreading these viruses in greenhouses is via Western Flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) feeding, it is critical to keep them under control.

This Alert can be used as a visual tool for diagnosing INSV symptoms on the shrimp plant.



Figure 2. Leaf with necrotic leafspots due to impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) infection. (Photo: Brian Whipker)



Figure 3. Close-up of necrotic rings. (Photo: Brian Whipker)

e-GRO Alert

www.e-gro.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Nora Catlin
Floriculture Specialist
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County
nora_catlin@cornell.edu

Dr. Chris Currey
Assistant Professor of Floriculture
Iowa State University
ccurrey@iastate.edu

Dr. Ryan Dickson
Greenhouse Horticulture and
Controlled-Environment Agriculture
University of Arkansas
ryand@uark.edu

Dan Gilrein
Entomology Specialist
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County
dng1@cornell.edu

Dr. Chieri Kubota
Controlled Environments Agriculture
The Ohio State University
kubota.10@osu.edu

Heidi Lindberg
Floriculture Extension Educator
Michigan State University
wolleage@anr.msu.edu

Dr. Roberto Lopez
Floriculture Extension & Research
Michigan State University
rlopez@msu.edu

Dr. Neil Mattson
Greenhouse Research & Extension
Cornell University
neil.mattson@cornell.edu

Dr. W. Garrett Owen
Sustainable Greenhouse & Nursery
Systems Extension & Research
The Ohio State University
owen.367@osu.edu

Dr. Rosa E. Raudales
Greenhouse Extension Specialist
University of Connecticut
rosa.raudales@uconn.edu

Dr. Alicia Rihn
Agricultural & Resource Economics
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
arihn@utk.edu

Dr. Debalina Saha
Horticulture Weed Science
Michigan State University
sahadeb7@msu.edu

Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff
Extension Educator - Greenhouse Systems
The Ohio State University
scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu

Dr. Ariana Torres-Bravo
Horticulture/ Ag. Economics
Purdue University
torres2@purdue.edu

Dr. Brian Whipker
Floriculture Extension & Research
NC State University
bwhipker@ncsu.edu

Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
Extension Plant Pathologist
University of Wyoming
jwilwood@uwyo.edu

Copyright © 2025

Where trade names, proprietary products, or specific equipment are listed, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement, guarantee or warranty is implied by the authors, universities or associations.

Cooperating Universities



**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County**



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



UCONN



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**



**P PURDUE
UNIVERSITY**



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

In cooperation with our local and state greenhouse organizations



Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association

