

# PLUM POX VIRUS



Plum pox virus (PPV), also known as Sharka, affects stone fruit species of the genus *Prunus*, including plums, peaches, apricots, and nectarines. PPV can lead to fewer and lower quality fruit yields potentially causing economic losses for local growers. It does not affect human or animal health and is not a food safety risk.

## SYMPTOMS

PPV symptoms can be different depending on the type of tree and the virus strain. Common symptoms include:

- Yellow and mottled leaves
- Rings or spots on leaves and fruit
- Misshapen and discoloured fruit
- Fruit falling off the tree early



PPV is mainly spread by aphids. By feeding on plants, these tiny insects can pick up the virus from infected plants and transfer it to healthy ones. The virus can also spread through infected plant material, like budwood and nursery stock.



LEARN MORE 



Visit the CFIA website

## PREVENTION

There is no cure for PPV, so preventing its spread is key. Ways to prevent the spread of PPV include:

- Using virus-free planting material
- Following propagation and movement restrictions
- Contacting CFIA to report suspect sightings outside of the regulated area

## REGULATED AREAS IN CANADA

To control the spread of PPV, a regulated area has been established in parts of the Niagara Region and the city of Hamilton, Ontario, where PPV is present. Within this area, a propagation ban is in place which prohibits activities such as grafting plant parts of *Prunus* that are susceptible to the virus. By doing this, CFIA prevents the spread of PPV in new or altered trees. It is also prohibited to move regulated plant material out of the regulated area without prior written permission from CFIA.

