



Passionvine Viruses Alert---Check your plants!

Doug Caldwell

This could be a huge deal for our Florida butterflies (zebra longwings, gulf fritillaries and julias) which use this vine as a larval host. I will get a story out on this in a week or so, but in the meanwhile, **please** check your passionvines and especially be careful to inspect any new purchases for the yellow spotting, malformed leaves and thickened internodes at the terminal end and bunchytop symptoms. These symptoms are similar to Roundup injury.

I destroyed the 2 plants (May 29 purchase) I bought plus an existing plant which was developing the bunchytop symptoms. We need to stop this disease and try to save passifloras for our butterflies as well as the passiflora fruit industry in Florida (50+ acres).

Scott Krueger reported that a disease new to the US, **passionfruit crinkle potyvirus** was submitted in Nov. 2007 and was confirmed in 30 April 2008 (it takes a lot of lab work to identify the specific virus). The leaves were mottled and misshapen. The samples I sent in July were also confirmed to have a virus by DPI's Dr. Carlye Baker.

See first 2 to 3 pages of this 19 page article:

[http://www.globalsciencebooks.info/JournalsSup/images/0812/PT_2\(1\)1-19o.pdf](http://www.globalsciencebooks.info/JournalsSup/images/0812/PT_2(1)1-19o.pdf)

Please contact your local DPI (Division of Plant Industries) or Dr. Carlye Baker at (352) 372-3505 or bakerca@doacs.state.fl.us if you find suspect plants.

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