

dividing hostas. Tools should be dipped in 10 percent bleach solution and hands washed thoroughly between working on each plant.

- Growers should submit plants with suspicious symptoms to the Plant Health Clinic for testing with ELISA (an antibody tests). While ELISA tests for *Hosta virus X* are not 100 percent accurate, they represent the most practical testing procedure currently available and will detect the virus in most infected plants. ELISA testing for this virus is conducted in the laboratory and requires special training and equipment.

Hosta virus X is not the only virus that infects hostas. There are at least six other less common viruses that attack hostas. Therefore, a plant with symptoms that tests negative for *Hosta virus X* could still be infected with HVX or one of the following

viruses: *Tomato ringspot virus*, *Impatiens necrotic spot virus*, *Tobacco rattle virus* or several unidentified viruses. Regardless, hostas with virus symptoms, even if not confirmed to be *Hosta virus X*, should be destroyed.

References

Currier S., and Lockhart, B.E.L. 1996. *Characterization of a Potexvirus Infecting Hosta spp.* Plant Disease 80:1040-1043.

Lockhart, B.E.L. 2002. *Differential Response of Hosta Cultivars to Infection by Hosta virus X Potexvirus – A Basis for Practical Disease Management.* Proc. 10th IS Virus Diseases Ornamentals. Ed. J. Hammond. Acta Hort. 568. ISHS.

Myer, B. 2006. *Hosta virus X – Spring 2006 Update.* <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVXUpdate1.htm>

Wilson, C. 2005. *Hosta virus X – A Brief History of the Epidemic.* <http://www.perennialnursery.com/HVX/hostavirusxhistory.html>

Table 1. Known or Suspected Varieties Susceptible to *Hosta virus X*

Varieties determined to be highly susceptible to <i>Hosta virus X</i>	Varieties considered somewhat susceptible to <i>Hosta virus X</i>	Varieties infected by viruses (probably <i>Hosta virus X</i>) and sold because of their unusual symptoms
Birchwood Parky's Gold	Abby	Blue Freckles (probable HVX)
Blue Cadet	Diamond Tiara	Breakdance (confirmed HVX)
Corona	El Nino	Dotted Fantasy (probable HVX)
Gold Edger	Ground Master	Eternal Father (confirmed HVX)
Gold Standard	Guacamole	Kiwi Dreadlocks (probable HVX)
Golden Tiara	Janet	Kiwi Watercolours (probable HVX)
Goldrush	June	Leopard Frog (confirmed HVX)
Honeybells	Katherine Lewis	Lunacy (confirmed virus)
Royal Standard	Krossa Regal*	Pamela Ann (probable HVX)
So Sweet	Minuteman	Parkish Gold (probable HVX)
Stiletto	'Night Before Christmas'	Strip Show (probable HVX)
Striptease	Pacific Blue Edger	Tye Dye (probable HVX)
Sweet Susan	Patriot	
Sum and Substance	Paradise Joyce	
Undulata Albomarginata	Regal Splendor*	
Ventricosa	Revolution	
Venucosa	Sagae	
	Sun Power	
	Sugar and Cream	
	Tardiva	
	Yellow Splash Rim	

*Possibly another virus in addition to *Hosta virus X* infects these varieties.

Table 1. Reaction of hosta varieties to *Hosta virus X* and possibly other viruses causing similar symptoms, as reported in the literature. Reactions should be used as a general guide only, and careful care and observation made of all varieties over time, since information may change with additional research or as viruses adapt to overcome resistance. Myer, B. 2006. *Hosta virus X – Spring 2006 Update.* <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVXUpdate1.htm>

