

*Plant Disease Notes*  
**Tomato Spotted  
Wilt Virus**

The host range of tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) extends to more than 170 species of plants, including many herbaceous ornamentals, in more than 35 plant families.

**Symptoms.** Tomato plants infected with TSWV are stunted and often die. Initially, leaves in the terminal portion of the plant stop growing, become distorted, and turn pale green. In young leaves, veins thicken and turn purple, causing the leaves to appear bronze. Necrotic spots or ring spots frequently occur on infected leaves. Stems of infected plants often have purplish brown streaks. Infected fruit may exhibit numerous ringspots and blotches and may become distorted if infected when immature.

**Persistence and Transmission.** TSWV is usually spread by thrips. Once thrips acquire the virus, they

remain infective for the remainder of their lives (30 to 45 days).

**Control.** TSWV can be controlled by the following strategies:

- Plant TSWV resistant varieties.
- Control TSWV-infected weeds adjacent to the field to reduce the source of infection. (TSWV can overwinter in weeds.)
- Apply systemic insecticides to the soil at planting to slow initial spread of the virus into the field.
- Spray bordering weeds and the tomato crop with insecticides to suppress thrips populations and spread of TSWV.
- Remove and destroy infected plants as soon as symptoms appear.



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**Edward J. Sikora**, *Extension Plant Pathologist*, Professor,  
Entomology and Plant Pathology, Auburn University

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Use chemicals only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions, and restrictions that are listed.

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**For more information**, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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