

Blueberry Shock (BBSHV)

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Synonyms

- blueberry necrotic shock virus

Plant hosts

- *Vaccinium corymbosum* (blueberry)

Symptoms

In spring when the flowers are just about to open, the flowers and young leaf shoots will suddenly die. The entire bush may be blighted, but usually only some of the branches show symptoms. The symptoms represent the plant's "shock reaction" to the viral infection. In late summer, the affected plants will look normal but produce very little fruit. The leaves that didn't blight in the spring may have thin red ringspots on both sides of the leaf. The plants will exhibit the shock reaction for 1 to 3 years. Afterwards, they may be symptom free but still carry the virus.



Blueberry bush infected with blueberry shock virus.

Transmission

Blueberry shock virus is pollen borne and can be transmitted by the wind or pollinators, especially honey bees, that transfer infected pollen to flowers of healthy plants. It can also be transmitted by grafting infected tissue to a healthy plant. The virus is not transmitted by contact between plants.

Geographic distribution

The virus has been detected in British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington.

Applicable regulations

Blueberry shock virus is a pathogen of concern to Oregon's interstate and international customers. [Virus testing](#) is available through the Commodity Inspection Division for this virus.