

Reversion Virus

Reversion Virus affects blackcurrants. It is spread largely by the gall or 'big bud' mite as it is more commonly called, an important and widespread pest of blackcurrants.



DAMAGE:

Plants produce leaves with slight yellowing, and unusually small veins. The leaves are shaped differently to healthy ones, the main leaf lobes being narrower and more pointed than healthy ones. The flowers are bright red in colour, instead of grey and virtually hairless. Cropping is reduced and there is no cure so infected plants gradually degenerate.

Sometimes the symptoms will appear on some shoots, whilst others look perfectly healthy. However, eventually the disease will spread all over the plant.

CONTROL:

As there is no treatment for Reversion Virus, infected bushes should be dug up and burned as soon as the symptoms of the disease are diagnosed, since they may act as a source of infection for other healthy bushes. Ensure that new bushes are Ministry Certified. Consider growing 'Ben Hope', a blackcurrant variety, resistant to the Blackcurrant Gall Mite or 'Ben Gairn' which is resistant to Reversion Virus.