

Celery Mosaic Virus

Celery Mosaic Virus, or CeMV (also known as Western Celery Mosaic Virus) is a naturally-occurring plant pathogen found in certain parts of California that causes vein clearing in leaves, leaf up-curling, leaf chlorosis and plant stunting. The virus can cause severe stunting, making the final product unmarketable.

In an effort to mitigate this virus, CDFA has written State Interior Plant Quarantine 3610 “Western Celery Mosaic Host-free Districts and Periods”. Because this virus exists naturally in certain parts of California, vegetable growers in those areas are required to meet the conditions of the quarantine. These include meeting a host-free period (time frame in which no celery can be grown) within the quarantine areas. For plants grown outside of greenhouses, the host-free period in San Luis Obispo County is from January 1 to January 31 of every year. Greenhouse growers of celery can select any continuous 8-day period each year agreed upon by the county agricultural commissioner and the grower. During these host-free periods, no celery plant or part thereof, other than seed, shall be planted or maintained.

Alternate hosts for CeMV include wild carrot and wild parsnip as well as fennel and hemlock. Keeping growing areas clear of these weeds will help mitigate the risk of CeMV in your growing operation.

In San Luis Obispo, the quarantined area is in the southern portion of the county, from Avila Beach south. For exact boundaries and to read the entire text of the quarantine, please see this link:

<http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pqm/manual/htm/452.htm>

To see a map of the quarantined area in SLO County, please click here:
[This link will be embedded at the time of publication to the webpage]