

First report of *Tobacco ringspot virus* in pumpkins (*Cucurbit pepo* L.) in Illinois. S. Jossey and M. Babadoost, Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801.

In a survey of commercial pumpkin and squash fields for viruses, conducted in Illinois 2005, *Tobacco ringspot virus* (TRSV) was identified for the first time in symptomatic pumpkin samples, collected during August-September, from Douglas, Kankakee, Piatt, and Tazewell counties in 1 of 3, 1 of 3, 1 of 1, and 1 of 7 samples tested, respectively. In an earlier study from southern Illinois, the only viruses detected in pumpkins were *Cucumber mosaic virus*, *Papaya ringspot virus*, *Squash mosaic virus*, *Watermelon mosaic virus*, and *Zucchini yellow mosaic virus* (1). TRSV has been reported in cucurbits from some states in United States (2). We detected TRSV in symptomatic leaves using double-antibody sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit (Agdia, Inc., Elkhart, IN). Samples were considered positive if the absorbance readings at 405nm exceeded 3x the absorbance of the negative control. The presence of TRSV was confirmed by reverse transcription-polymerase chain reactions (RT-PCR), using primers CTTGCGGCCCAAATCTATAA and ACTTG TGCCCAGGAGAGCTA, which anneals to the conserved region in the coat protein gene to produce a product of 348bp. Total RNA was extracted from the symptomatic plants using TRIzol Reagent and reverse transcribed by M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Plants infected with TRSV exhibited mild mosaic accompanied with general yellowing of leaves. Hence, utilizing ELISA and RT-PCR tests, the presence of TRSV in pumpkins in Illinois was determined for the first time.

*References:* (1) S. A. Walter et al. HortScience 38:65, 2003. (2) T.A. Zitter et al. Page 42 in: Compendium of cucurbit diseases. APS Press, St. Paul, MN. 1996.