



Peperomia phyto sanitary update

16 July 2021

Peperomia varieties are produced on different continents, and typically have latent infections with two genus-specific viruses, Piper chlorotic virus (PChV) and Obuda pepper virus (OBPV). Based on our years of experience at commercial greenhouse operations, these viruses are not believed to cause major harm to Peperomia plants, and we are not aware of any cases where these viruses caused serious damage outside the plant family Peperomia. Both PChV and OBPV belong to the same genus as tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), and as a consequence we understand from Agdia that PChV and OBPV can produce a cross-reaction positive result for TMV when the Agdia TMV ELISA or ImmunoStrip® is used. As a consequence, there is a strong likelihood that positive tests for TMV in (y)our Peperomia Program are cross-reactions, and that (y)our Peperomia are not infected with TMV. Because of these cross-reactions, as with all diagnostic tools, Agdia recommends confirming all results with a secondary detection method before making any economic decisions. Please consider this information in taking any action regarding (y)our Peperomia plants, and any other plants in the same genus. Please contact Dümmen Orange for any other further questions related to this topic.