

Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)

by Ken Barbi



INSV Infected Gloxinia (From University of Massachusetts website)

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A recent AVSA African Violet Magazine article in the May/June 2005 issue written by Georgene Albrecht discusses the Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV). This virus has been recently diagnosed in African violets and other gesneriads and has no cure. It is transmitted by the notorious THRIP. It has wiped out entire

greenhouse stocks of several commercial growers, and destroyed entire member collections in New York. Its symptoms mimic other common problems we have faced over the years such as mites, poor culture, water spots, leaf mottling, etc.

The problem is something we all need to know about, particularly how to combat the virus. The only positive way to determine if your suspect plants have INSV is to perform a test. Test kits are available from a number of sources to include Cape Code Violetry. Once you determine a plant in your collection has the virus, you can be sure all your plants are at risk if you have trips which carry the virus. **Destruction of infected plants** is the only cure, and control of trips is the key to prevention.

So now you say, I have tried everything to kill those little bugs—well, science has come to the rescue again in the form a new insecticide called **Conserve SC**—also coincidentally available from Cape Code Violetry if you don't want to buy huge expensive bottles of the liquid. In talking with several member hybridizers and growers, I thought it important enough to bring it to your attention. If you want more detail, there is a fine collection of research from the University of Massachusetts, Texas A&M, and Colorado State Cooperative Extension On-Line. Search the internet for "Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus" for more articles.



INSV on African Violet from State of Maine Government Web Site