

Fanleaf Degeneration



Fanleaf Degeneration (Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University)

Fanleaf degeneration is caused by the Grapevine Fanleaf Virus (GFLV). Symptoms produce fan-shaped leaves resembling 2,4-d injury. The vines have abnormal branching, proliferating shoots, and short internodes. GFLV affects fruit set and quality. Clusters are smaller and have irregular ripening. The virus is spread by the dagger nematode *Xiphinema index*. The roots of infected vines can serve as inoculum for months after the vine has been removed.

Controlling the disease can be accomplished by several ways. The main prevention method for the disease is by controlling the virus vector. Fumigation prior of planting can be the best way of bringing down the population of *X. index*.

Once a vineyard is established, eliminating the vector is not possible. Resistant germplasm to GFLV and the vector can also be utilized. The main control measure is to use virus-free material, planted in nematode free soil. Fortunately, GFLV is quite rare in Minnesota.