FAQs

I pulled out a diseased plant. Is it okay to plant in the same soil again?

> Depends. If the disease was due to a virus, you may plant again in the same soil. Many viruses do not survive in soil.
FAQs

I really take good care of my plants and I don’t see much of a disease issues!

Stresses like lack of water or poor soil fertility could weaken your plants and could result in disease expression.
FAQs

Is it possible to make dahlias resistant to viruses?

Yes. Through the process called plant breeding. For this, we first need to identify genes that provide that resistance and move them into desirable cultivars.
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Some of my plants looked diseased but new growth looked fine rest of the season. Why is that?

This happens some times. Plants fight back and try to recover from the disease. This does not mean that they got rid of the virus.
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My plants looked like diseased with leaves showing symptoms similar to what Dr. Pappu showed. But the flowers came out normal. Should I keep using the tubers/cuttings from these plants?

> Not a good idea! Viruses accumulate and pass on from generation to generation and can cause more damage.
FAQs

What can I do to reduce virused plants?

- Disinfecting knives/tools goes a long way!
- 10% household bleach can be very effective in inactivating many viruses
FAQs

Is there something that I can spray to 'cure' my diseased plants?

- No
- There are no known chemical therapies for plant viruses - to 'get rid of/kill' a virus from a diseased plant
FAQs

I pulled out a few diseased plants. Is it okay to compost them?

- It is better if you don’t. It depends on the region: where summer temperatures are higher, the composting process could inactivate the viruses.
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You said dahlia viruses are spread by bugs. What can I do about it?

• Yes, many of the dahlia viruses are spread by insects - but their relative importance in disease spread in household gardens is relatively low.
• Removing leaves with symptoms - first time they appear and become visible - reduces the virus that could be spread by insects.
Remember!

Removing plants with disease as soon as you notice them and not using/selling/sharing tubers from those plants is the surest way to reduce the virus problem over time.

Those who have been doing this over the years have virus-free plants.
FAQs

How can we reach you?

- Google: Pappu and WSU
- hrp@wsu.edu
Thank you!

The American Dahlia Society
Jim Chuey, Scheetz Chuey Charitable Foundation

Other sources of funding:
- WSU Agricultural Research Center
- United States Dept. of Agriculture
- WA State Commission for Pesticide Registration