

Controlling Virus in Your Garden!

The research work by Prof. Hanu Pappu at Washington State University (WSU) is providing us with an approach to reduce virus in our dahlia gardens. There are four key elements of that approach.

1. **Pull out plants whose leaves exhibit obvious signs of virus.** The appearance of leaves on plants with virus was published in a brochure that was distributed with the June, 2015, ADS Bulletin. Those pictures are also available on the ADS website, dahlia.org.
2. **Clean all tools with a 10% solution of bleach** when you are done working on each individual plant (cutting blooms, deadheading, disbranching, etc.). Dr. Pappu reports that hydrogen peroxide can also serve to kill virus on your tools.
3. **Take advantage of the opportunity available this summer to have your plants tested for virus** by Prof. Pappu's team at WSU. Detailed instructions and the necessary sample forms are available on the ADS website.
4. Keep excellent track of the plants you test and the tubers that come from them. Throw out the plants and the tubers of the plants that test positive for virus. Take extra care of the tubers from plants that test negative! (Experience in a pilot program in Ohio suggests that most of your plants will prove to be free of virus.) If you rigorously follow steps 1 and 2, there is good reason to anticipate that those first generation (G1) tubers of plants without virus will also be free of virus. Share extras with your friends at your local dahlia society. Be prepared and be willing to pay a couple bucks more for those G1 tubers as they become available from suppliers and at your local auctions!

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