

Prohibition on the import of fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock of New Zealand Origin

15 June 2021

On 10 June 2021, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (“BAF”) was notified by the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (“NZMPI”), New Zealand’s National Plant Protection Organization (“NPPO”), that *Pepino mosaic virus* (“PepMV”) was detected in two tomato glasshouse facilities in Auckland, New Zealand. PepMV is considered under New Zealand’s Biosecurity Act (1993) as an unwanted and notifiable organism which is economically important to New Zealand and equally for Fiji as well.

PepMV is a disease of greenhouse tomatoes as well as other Solanaceous crops. PepMV infection does not always result in significant economic impact since fruit symptoms may be absent. Preliminary studies show that yield may be affected and fruit setting may be delayed.

PepMV is easily transmitted by mechanical contact, including contaminated tools, hands, clothing, direct plant-to plant contact, and propagation (grafting, cuttings), as well as by seeds.

As a precautionary measure and effective immediately, NZMPI will not be issuing phytosanitary certificates for fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock of New Zealand origin exported to Fiji. Consequently, BAF will until further notice, prohibit the import of New Zealand produced fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock into Fiji.

All import permits issued for import of fresh produce or propagating materials from New Zealand are now revoked for fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock only. Other commodities for which the import permit was issued may continue to be imported according to usual BAF requirements and official certifications from New Zealand.

The stakeholders will be informed after further discussions and investigations have been completed and if there are any reviews to the above decision.

For further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Plant Scientific Team or Trade Facilitation & Compliance Team at BAF Headquarters on 3312512 or alternatively, via email plantimports@baf.com.fj or tfc@baf.com.fj, respectively.

Notice No. 01-PepMV

Issued on 15 June 2021 from BAF HQ, Suva, Fiji

Reference: TomatoesNZ. 2021. Pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) family Potexvirus – Exotic Pests Factsheet 4



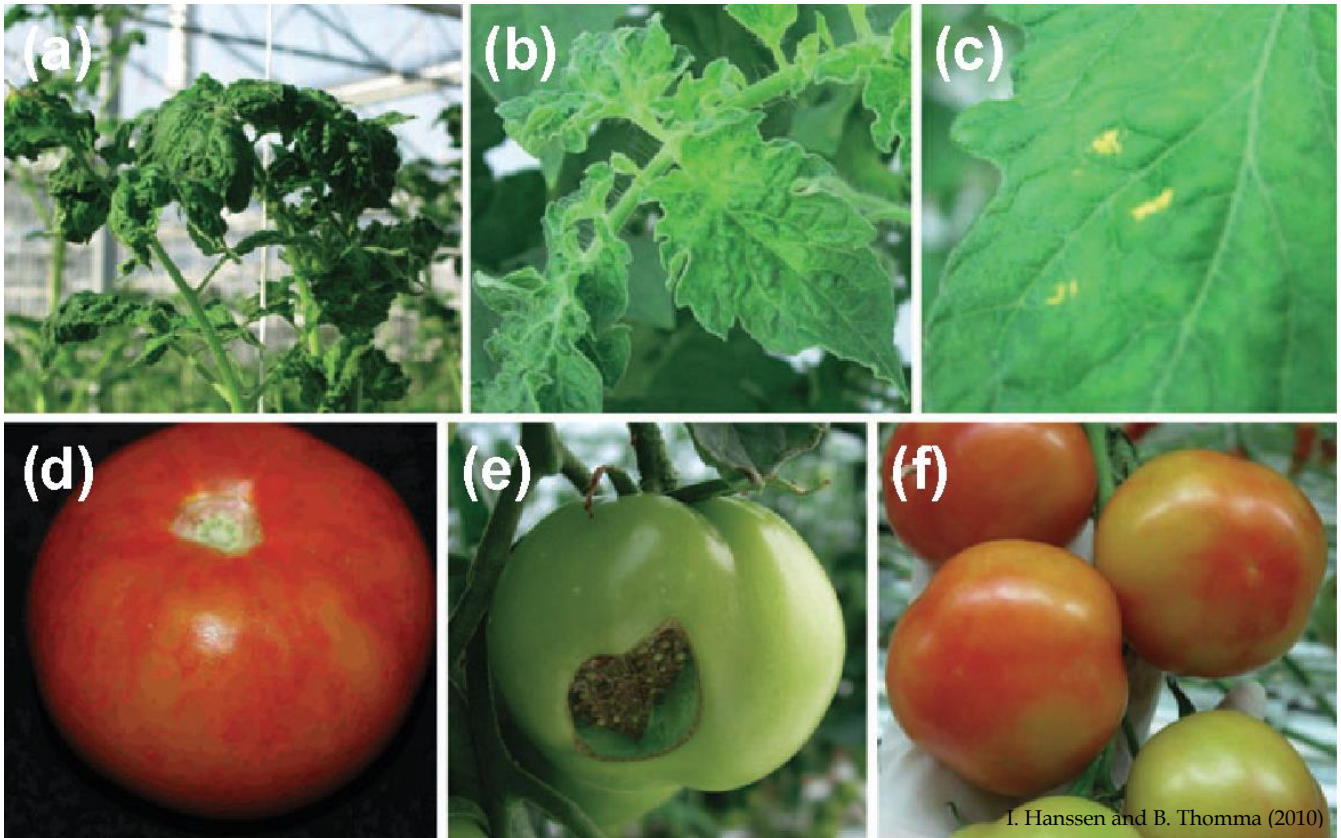
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Typical *Pepino mosaic virus* (PepMV) symptoms on tomato: (a) nettlehead of young top leaves; (b) leaf bubbling; (c) yellow spots; (d) fruit marbling; (e) open fruit; (f) fruit discoloration (flaming).



More pronounced symptoms of PepMV on tomato leaves, fruits and stems.