

# Vegetable ~~Matter-of~~ Facts

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# Vegetables



## Silverleaf Whitefly

**Silverleaf Whitefly is a pest of many vegetables including....**

Eggplant	Capsicum	Carrot	Onion
Cabbage	Tomato	Melon	Zucchini
Beans	Broccoli	Cucumber	Peas

It is a major pest in parts of NSW, QLD, NT and WA.



The silverleaf whitefly (above) is only 1-2mm. about the same size as this dash - . They hold their wings in a tent shape unlike other whiteflies that hold them flat on their body.

### Why is Silverleaf Whitefly (SLWF) a problem?

It causes feeding damage, which can lead to distortion, stunting and defoliation, as well as the uneven ripening of fruit.

SLWF is very effective in transmitting viruses such as Tomato Leaf Curl Virus.

It quickly develops insecticide resistance.

Its numbers can increase rapidly with females laying about 160 eggs and the lifecycle complete in as little as 18 days.

If SLWF is found in your region it may restrict access to certain markets.



Like other whitefly species the SLWF is mainly found on the underside of leaves. The photo on left shows the 1<sup>st</sup> signs of black sooty mould developing. This is a secondary infection caused by mould growing on the sugary sticky SLWF excretions.

# What can I do to stop SLWF from getting to my property?

As with all pests and diseases the key to stopping it getting to your farm is to have a strict hygiene policy. This needs to consider people and things coming onto the farm as well how they move whilst on the farm. It would be a great idea to develop a hygiene plan for your farm and make everyone aware of what to do. Be sure to consider the following issues.

- Make sure that seedlings come from nurseries with good hygiene practices.
- Never bring plant material from an unknown source onto your property.
- Ensure people, shoes, machinery and equipment are clean of crop residue and soil.
- Conduct regular crop inspections to be on the lookout for the first signs of disease or insect infestations.
- Hang sticky traps strategically throughout your crop and inspect them regularly.
- If you do find something suspicious quarantine it or remove it and get it identified. A problem ignored is a problem doubled.
- Pest insects such as SLWF and Western Flower Thrips live on a wide range of weeds so it is important to regularly clean-up weeds around your property particularly around headlands.



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**Slobodan Vujovic, Private Bag 15, Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre 3156; Fax (03) 9800 3521.**

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## For more information please contact your local VegCheque officer.

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## What happens if I do get SLWF?

### Biological Control

A wasp originally from Pakistan has been found to successfully control SLWF in Texas. After extensive trials in the lab by QLD DPI&F the wasp has been released in some parts of QLD. It may be too cold for it to establish populations in Victoria although it is likely to survive in glasshouses.

### Chemical Control

There are a range of chemicals registered to control silverleaf whitefly. A spray program to minimise the chance of resistance has been developed. If you think you may have silverleaf whitefly it is important to have them identified so you can implement a control program. Please contact your nearest VegCheque officer for assistance and the spray program.

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