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Occurrence of mosaic viruses in melons in the Central Valley of California.

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Abstract : Three melon-growing regions in the Central Valley of California, surveyed for the incidence and severity of watermelon mosaic 2 potyvirus (WWMV2), zucchini yellow mosaic potyvirus (ZYMV), cucumber mosaic cucumovirus (CMV), and ringspot potyvirus - watermelon strain (PRSV-W)[watermelon mosaic 1 potyvirus (WMMV1)] in 1988 and 1989. WMMV2 was the most prevalent virus in all 3 regions (Yolo/Sutter and Colusa counties).

counties, Stanislaus County and Merced/Fresno counties), both in the number of infected plants and in the proportion of symptomatic plants within each site. ZYMV were detected in fewer sites and generally infected 20% or fewer symptomatic plants within a site. In Stanislaus County, ZYMV, which had not previously been reported in the Central Valley, was detected in a higher number of sites and a higher proportion of symptomatic plants/site in 1989 than in 1988. The increased incidence of ZYMV is of concern because this virus is severely pathogenic. PRSV-W was detected in low levels in the field in Stanislaus and Merced/Fresno counties. It is suggested that management strategies for dealing with virus diseases in the agriculturally diverse Central Valley will be different in each particular region.

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