Hosta Virus X

First identified in 1996, initial transmission of Hosta Virus X into the marketplace was through the introduction of new Hosta “varieties” that were in fact infected with the virus and were not the result of breeding efforts.

Symptoms of Hosta Virus X (HVX) can vary depending upon the susceptibility of the cultivar of Hosta. In susceptible cultivars, symptoms can include mottling, mosaic or circular spots, leaf distortion, leaf dessication, loss of plant vigor, and death. Tolerant cultivars can be asymptomatic but still act as a source of infection.

Transmission of the virus is through propagation of plant material or mechanical damage to the plant through pruning and transfer of infected sap to a healthy plant. There is no evidence that insects contribute to the transmission of this virus.

Good sanitation practices including cleaning pruning tools and the destruction of infected plant material are the only methods for controlling HVX. There are no chemical control methods for this virus.

For more information:
Hosta Virus X Fact Sheet - University of Arkansas
Hosta Virus X Fact Sheet - The Ohio State University
Hosta Virus X - The Hosta Library