Blueberry Spherical Virus

a. Virus/pathogen name, including accepted acronyms and synonyms

Blueberry latent spherical (BLSV), Genus *Nepovirus*, Family *Secoviridae*, Order *Picornavirales*.

b. Host Range: BLSV is only known to naturally infect Vaccinium (Isogai et al., 2012). Experimental hosts include *Nicotiana benthamiana* and *Chenopodium quinoa*

c. Symptoms on crop host:
As the name suggest no symptoms have been associated with virus infection on blueberry. *C. quinoa* infected plants developed chlorotic spots and chlorosis in the inoculated and systemic leaves. In *N. benthamiana,* mild mosaic symptoms can develop.

d. Geographic distribution:
The virus has been reported obtained from Japan. The status in the United States in unknown since no surveys have been conducted.

e. Means of spread
RLSV is mechanically transmissible to several indicator plants except blueberry. RLSV is graft transmissible from blueberry to other blueberry plants. No information on vectors is available yet based on its taxonomic placement BLSV is expected to be transmitted by pollen, seed and nematodes.

f. Recognized diagnostic tests
BLSV can be detected by RT-PCR (Isogai, 2012). Nepoviruses tend to have higher titer in newer tissue at the beginning of the season.

h. Management strategies for the pathogen and the vector(s) of the pathogen.
Even though BLSV appears symptomless in blueberry, virus-indexed planting stock is critical because little in known of the virus pathology in most blueberry cultivars whereas there have not been any studies on BLSV effects in mixed infections with other blueberry viruses

References:
Isogai M, Tatuto N, Ujiie C. 2012. Watanabe M, Yoshikawa N. Identification and characterization of blueberry latent spherical virus, a new member of subgroup C in the genus Nepovirus. Archives of Virology. 157(2):297-303.

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