

## CMV and ToMV

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Tomato Farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka have blamed CMV and ToMV, two different viruses, for the loss of yields.



[Ref: firstpost]

### About CMV and ToMV Viruses:

- Both viruses cause damage to the crop by **stunting its growth and affecting the final yield**.
- CMV has a larger host pool as it infects crops like **cucumber, melon, eggplant, tomato**, and members of the gourd family, like **squash, pumpkin, zucchini**, and some ornamental plants.
- ToMV belongs to the Virgaviridae family, closely related to the **tobacco mosaic virus (TMV)** and it affects crops including **tomatoes, tobacco, peppers**, and certain ornamental plants.
- Plants infected by CMV are severely **stunted with malformed leaves**.
  - The fruit of the plants is unmarketable because of **poor quality and malformation**.
- ToMV damages the **leaves, stems, and fruits of plants**, leaving a mosaic and mottled appearance or dark green spots on the leaves.
- Both viruses can lead to **100 per cent crop loss** if not treated on time.
- ToMV spreads mainly through **infected seeds, saplings, agricultural tools** and the hands of nursery workers while the CMV is commonly spread by **aphids**, which are sap-sucking insects.