

ORCHID VIRUS IN BRIEF

- There is no way to cure a virus.
- Virus is spread by sap transmission This commonly happens with cutting implements such as scissors, secateurs, knives etc, and by sucking and chewing insects.
- Virus symptoms tend to go right through the leaf, not just appear on one leaf surface.
- If new leaves are clean, this may indicate a fungus rather than a virus.
- The orchid should be destroyed, preferably by burning, but wrapping in a strong plastic bag and sending to the dump is the normal method of disposal where burning is not permitted.
- DO NOT give the orchid away, or put it on the sales bench or dump the orchid without wrapping. This will only spread the virus.
- Unfortunately, there is no reliable method to identify virused plants by looking at an Orchid.
- There are many extremely variable symptoms associated with a particular virus. These can be a useful guide to identify suspicious plants, but
- The only reliable method to identify virused plants is a laboratory test.
- These are available in most areas in Australia from Universities or the Department of Primary Industry. The cost per test varies.
- Your local orchid society or orchid nursery will be able to advise you of the best place to get your orchids tested.