

What is Hop Latent Viroid?

Know before you grow, a summary on Hop Latent Viroid



01

What is a viroid?

Unlike a virus, a viroid is much smaller, has a different genetic structure, and can only replicate inside plant cells. The structural difference allows viroids to mutate faster – making it difficult to detect and control.



02

Which plants are at-risk?

Hop latent viroid has a fairly narrow host range. The only plants known to contract HLVd are hops plants, stinging nettle, and cannabis.



03

How does HLVd affect plants?

An HLVd infection impacts growth patterns, leaf shape and color, flower content, and quality. However, it can also present asymptotically – without physical changes. Therefore, HLVd cannot be diagnosed based on symptoms alone. The only way to determine if a plant is infected is through a diagnostic test.



04

How does HLVd spread?

HLVd primarily spreads through contaminated tools during pruning, harvesting, or cloning, as sap from infected plants contacts healthy ones. Potential secondary routes include seeds, water, or insects, though more research is needed.



05

Is HLVd preventable?

Yes, with strict sanitary measures, regular lab testing, and sourcing pre-tested seed or local stock. The standard is testing mother plants every 4–6 weeks using reliable and specific testing services.