



Section Vegetables and Ornamentals SVO  
Working Group Integrated Companies wic

**Position**  
for a  
**Definition of the Terms Describing the Reaction of  
Plants to Pests/Pathogens**

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## 1. Preamble

Differing degrees of specificity exist in host-pest/pathogen relations. Identification of such specificity generally requires the use of highly elaborate analytical methods. Recognizing whether a plant is subject to a pest/pathogen or not may depend on the analytical method employed. It is important, in general, to stress that the specificity of pests/pathogens may vary over time and space, depends on environmental factors, and that new pest biotypes or pathogen races capable of overcoming resistance may emerge.

## 2. Definitions

**Immunity:** not subject to attack or infection by a specified pest/pathogen.

**Resistance:** the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest/pathogen and the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest/pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest/pathogen pressure.

Two levels of resistance are defined:

**High Resistance (HR):** plant varieties restrict the growth and development of the specified pest/pathogen under normal disease or pest/pathogen pressure when compared to susceptible varieties. These plant varieties may, however, exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest/pathogen pressure.

**Intermediate Resistance (IR):** plant varieties restrict the growth and development of the specified pest/pathogen, but may exhibit a greater range of symptoms compared to highly resistant varieties. Intermediate resistant plant varieties will still show less severe disease symptoms or damage than susceptible plant varieties when grown under similar environmental conditions and/or pest/pathogen pressure.

**Susceptibility:** the inability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest/pathogen.