



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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Commissioner

PEST: Geranium Wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*)

BASIC PROFILE: *Ralstonia* is a bacterial wilt that can infect many vegetable crop and ornamental plant species. Initial symptoms include wilting of lower leaves followed by yellowing and necrosis; V-shaped, chlorotic, or dead areas can develop on flaccid leaves; a brown discoloration of the vascular system is sometimes visible; roots of infected plants are often brown or black; plants eventually collapse and die; no discrete leaf spots are associated with this disease. There are no effective chemical treatments.

LDAF ACTIVITY: We conduct periodic visual surveys for *Ralstonia* when reports of possible interceptions arise. This includes checking origin paperwork. We also look for it during routine nursery grower and NSD inspections in selected plants such as geraniums. *Ralstonia* spreads mainly through movement of infected nursery stock, particularly in stock from outside of the U.S. If found, immediate quarantine action is taken, including stop sales and quarantine restrictions on plants and facilities.

