Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) is a major disease of cultivated crops in Australia. The biology of the disease has been expertly reviewed and explained in a number of publications from state agriculture departments (see references below).

TSWV is vectored (i.e. spread plant-to-plant) by thrips. Western flower thrips (WFT) (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) is the most efficient vector, but tomato thrip (*F. schultzei*) and onion thrip (*Thrips tabaci*) are also culprits.

Dow AgroSciences commissioned a trial in northern Queensland to investigate the benefits of using Success NEO for insect pest control in field-grown tomatoes.

Success NEO was applied at 200 mL/ha in 250 L/ha spray volume. Three applications were made at weekly intervals to an establishing population of *Frankliniella schultzei* (tomato thrip). Thrips were counted and the incidence of TSWV in fruit assessed several times during the conduct of the trial*

It should be noted that neither Success NEO nor Movento® are registered for control of tomato thrip in tomatoes.

The trial results were astounding. Counts of thrips showed that both Success NEO and Movento gave good control of thrips in this trial.

The really important finding was that Success NEO, through control of thrips, prevented significant transmission of the TSWV.

A spray programme utilising Success NEO which has activity on all stages of the thrip life cycle will effectively protect a tomato crop from the debilitating TSWV.
Western flower thrip (WFT) is widely considered the most important vector of TSWV in Australia. Success NEO is registered for control of this pest in a wide range of crops, but care must be taken to preserve this chemistry for many years to come. Always follow the product label instructions with regard to use rate, frequency of application and spray guidelines.

Rather than relying on chemical control, use as many cultural control techniques as can be reasonably introduced to the mix. Remove alternative hosts (weeds and old crops), mow flowering inter-rows, install physical exclusion barriers or even change the cropping mix.

In spray programmes, above all, rotate between products with alternate modes of action registered to control WFT in order to preserve those products which are still effective.