

**Table S4.** Levene's test of equality of error variances <sup>a, b</sup> (a) dependent variable – disease severity %, and (b) design – intercept + planting date. The Levene's test results indicated unequal variances, with F =37.479 and corresponding p-value <0.007 for the study plants, and F =96.00 and corresponding p-value <0.001 for the positive control, leading to rejection of the null hypotheses which stated that the error variance of the dependent variable (disease severity %) is equal across groups. There is sufficient evidence that the variance in disease severity between planting dates is significantly different.

Treatment	Disease severity %	Levene Statistic	*df1	*df2	*Sig.
Inoculated	Based on mean	37.479	5	54	<.001
	Based on median	16.116	5	54	<.001
	Based on median and with adjusted df	16.116	5	20.257	<.001
	Based on trimmed mean	35.733	5	54	<.001
Positive control	Disease severity %	Levene statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
	Based on mean	96.000	3	16	<.001
	Based on median	2.667	3	16	.083
	Based on median with adjusted df	2.667	3	4.000	.184
	Based on trimmed mean	77.042	3	16	<.001

\* *df indicated degrees of freedom*

\*\* *Sig, indicates significance*