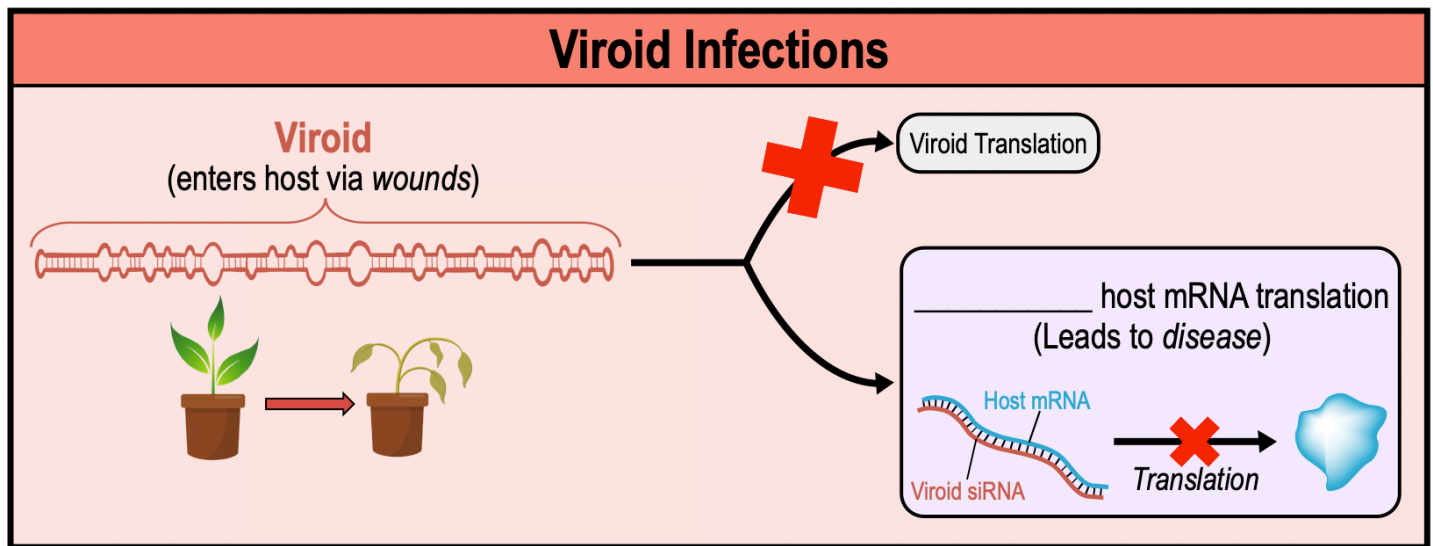


CONCEPT: VIROIDS

- Recall: _____: *obligate intracellular parasites* made of only a single, short strand of _____ forming a *closed ring*.
 - ONLY known to infect & cause disease in _____ cells.
 - Like plant viruses, they enter a host cell via _____ sites.
 - Replicates using a host *RNA-dependent* _____ polymerase (like *replicase* of RNA viruses).
- Viroids do _____ encode for any proteins; but act like *small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)*.
 - Block the expression of plant genes, causing disease.



- Many questions about viroids still exist, but continued research is ongoing every day to solve these issues.

PRACTICE: Viroids characteristically are composed of:

- ssRNA.
- dsRNA.
- ssDNA.
- dsDNA.

PRACTICE: Viroids are:

- Small fragments of naked dsDNA that infect plant cells.
- Small fragments of naked dsRNA that infect plant cells.
- Small fragments of naked ssRNA that infect plant cells.
- Small fragments of naked ssRNA that infect animal cells.
- Small fragments of naked ssDNA that infect animal cells.
- None of the above.