**Table S3**. Primers used in qRT-PCR to check the relative mRNA expression of deleted genes.

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| --- | --- |
| FgAGO2\_F1 GCCAAGTTTGGTGAAGCTGG  FgAGO2\_R1 CATGGGAATGAAGCCACCC | Forward and reverse primers for *AGO2* expression |
| AGO1qpcr\_F1 TCCCAGTTTGGTCGGATTGG  AGO1qpcr\_R1 TGCTGTCGGTTGTGCATTTG | Forward and reverse primers for *AGO1* expression |
| RDR1qpcr\_F1 TATTGGAGGTCAGCTTGCGG  RDR1qpcr\_R1 CTGCCTGTCGCTTCTGGTTA | Forward and reverse primers for *RdRP1* expression |
| QDE-3qpcr\_F ATCCCTGACTCCGACGATGA  QDE-3qpcr\_R AGCAGAGTCATCAACAACCAGT | Forward and reverse primers for *QDE3* expression |
| QIPqpcr\_F2 AACAGATGGTTCCGCTGCAA  QIPqpcr\_R CAAAGTCCTTGTGAACGGGC | Forward and reverse primers for *QIP* expression |
| DCL2qpcr\_F3 TTGGAGGTTCAGCTCATCGC  DCL2qpcr\_R3 TGACGATAGAGGGATGCGGA | Forward and reverse primers for *DCL2* expression |
| DCL1qpcr\_F2 TGAGTCCCATTTCCAACAGCA  DCL1qpcr\_R2 TTCCCTCCTCTGCCACTGAT | Forward and reverse primers for *DCL1* expression |
| RDR4qpcr1\_F TGCCGAGAAAGCAACCTGAT  RDR4qpcr1\_R GGAACAATGGTGCGCGATAC | Forward and reverse primers for *RdRP4* expression |
| RDR2qpcr1\_F ACCACAACCAGACGAATGGA  RDR2qpcr1\_R TGTCGTAGTTGATGACGGCAA | Forward and reverse primers for *RdRP2* expression |
| RDR3qpcr2\_F GCGGCCTGTAAGTGGTATTG  RDR3qpcr2\_R GGGCACCTCTCTTGTTCAGG | Forward and reverse primers for *RdRP3* expression |
| β-Tubulin\_F ATCTCGAGCCCGGTACCATGG  β-Tubulin\_R CTCGGTGTAATGACCCTTGGCC | Forward and reverse primers for Fusarium β-Tubulin reference gene |
| EF1a\_F CAAGGCCGTCGAGAAGTCCAC  EF1a\_R TGCCAACATGATCATTTCGTCGTA | Forward and reverse primers for Fusarium *Elongation Factor A* reference gene |