

Black rot on Brassica

Recognize the problem

Black rot is one of the most serious diseases on brassica. Disease symptoms are v-shaped light green rots along the leaf edges. These rots dry up and turn brown.

Severely infected leaves may wither and drop off the plant. Most severe losses have occurred when the cabbages are grown for seed production.

Background

Black rot development is favoured by warm, humid conditions. The disease is caused by bacteria which are carried in the seed of the host plant. The bacteria can survive in soil and infected plant residues that have not decomposed. Seedlings should not be crowded in the nursery. Weeds surrounding the farm are a source of the bacteria.

Black rot on leaf. (Photo by Kengap Horticulture)



Management

Non-chemical control

- Crop rotations using plants that are not in the Brassica family are recommended.
- Plant resistant varieties.
- Do not plant Brassica more often than 2 years in any infested field.
- Most cabbage family weeds host bacteria therefore they must be controlled to prevent contamination. Weeds should be managed even in the surrounding areas.
- Sprinkler irrigation should be avoided wherever possible and if used, mulch should be placed to avoid splashes.
- Deep ploughing should be done to decompose old plant material that could be infected.
- Plant seeds or seedlings that are disease-free.

Scientific name(s) > *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: many countries where this pest or problem is present



Authors: This factsheet is based on information written for "The Brassica Farming Handbook", first published by KENGAP Horticulture 2011.
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