

Lecture 13 - Diseases of Crucifers (2 Lectures)

Beet root

Leaf Spot: *Cercospora beticola*

Symptoms



This is a commonly occurring disease on foliage of beet roots. High humidity usually favours the spread of this disease. Numerous small circular spots appear on the leaf surface. The spots increase in size, becoming brownish or purplish in color. Individual spots are usually circular but several may coalesce into larger areas of dead tissue. The spots dry up giving a shot-hole appearance to the leaves. In case of severe infection spots cover the entire leaf surface resulting in pre-mature death and dropping of the leaves. As leaves die, the crown becomes cone-shaped with a rosette of dead leaves at the base. Defoliation occurs throughout the growing season resulting in reduction in root size and yield. Older leaves are mostly affected.

Pathogen

Conidia are borne singly at the tip of conidiophores. They are hyaline, elongate, filiform and multiseptate. Perfect stage is not known.

Mode of spread and survival

The pathogen is carried with the seed. The chief overwintering inoculum is in infected plant debris, in which mycelium remain viable. The fungus can overwinter in debris from diseased plants, in weed hosts and in beet seeds. The fungus can survive 12 – 18 months. The conidia are disseminated chiefly by air. Insects, splashing water, cultivation tools, workers and irrigation water also spread of the disease. Moist weather is essential for sporulation.

Management

Removal and destruction of affected plants and practicing crop rotation are beneficial in controlling the disease. Spraying with Copper oxychloride (0.3 %) thrice at an interval of 15 days controls the disease effectively.

Downy Mildew: *Peronospora schachtii*

Symptoms



The disease is mostly prevalent during the cooler months. Symptoms appear as irregular greasy greyish areas on the leaves. Under moist conditions, these areas expand rapidly and a white powdery growth appears on the lower surface of the affected leaves. Affected leaf dries and shrivels quickly. Flower shoots on infected plants become stunted and distorted. The entire inflorescence has a compact appearance and excessive leaf development may give an appearance witches broom. The fungus survives on the crop residues in the soil and is also carried by the seed.

Pathogen

Peronospora produces sporangia abundantly on the cotyledons and is splashed from there to other plants. The sporangia germinate by means of a germ tube and not by zoospores.

Management

Preventive measures such as good field sanitation, crop rotation and use of resistant cultivars is recommended. Seed treatment with Thiram (2.5-3 g/kg of seed) protects the emerging seedlings from the disease attack. Spraying with Dithane Z-78 (0.3 %) thrice at an interval of 15 days is also recommended as an effective control measure.

Curly-top virus

Symptoms



External symptoms of curly top virus infection may appear in leaves, stems, flowers, fruits, or roots of infected plants. Generally, mottling is absent, but infected plant parts may become distorted through curling, twisting, rolling, stunting, etc.

Leaves become thickened and leathery. Curly top virus may impair both yield and quality of the root of an infected plant. Some of the most pronounced symptoms resulting from curly top virus attacks are internal and non-observable with the unaided eye. Such internal symptoms consist of death of the food conducting vessels, as well as of extreme variations from the normal in numbers and sizes of cells composing the plant tissues.

Pathogen

Beet curly top virus particles are 18 – 22 nm in dia. The thermal death point of the virus is 80°C and longevity in vitro is 8 days.

Mode of spread and survival

The beet leaf hopper is the vector of BCTV. The first generation leafhoppers migrate out of the range lands to sugar beet fields, carrying the virus with them. Leafhoppers produce several generations each year, which migrate through susceptible crops spreading the virus. As the crops mature and dry, the leafhoppers move back into the over wintering areas in search of the winter host.

Leafhoppers acquire BCTV by feeding on infected host, either the winter host or crop plants. Leafhoppers are able to acquire the virus during very short feeding times. The leafhopper retains the ability to transmit BCTV for a month or more after acquisition. The vector may maintain the virus during its over-wintering period.

Management

Losses can be reduced by the use of resistant varieties; Adopting sanitary measures including the eradication of susceptible weeds and susceptible volunteer crop plants from a previous planting; Regulating the time of planting in order to avoid the main flights of the beet leafhopper; Use of barriers of trap crops and early removal and destruction of infected plants. Spraying malathion (2ml/litre of water) controls the population of beet leaf hoppers.

Beet Yellows: Virus

Symptoms



This disease is transmitted mainly through aphids. The important symptoms of the disease include yellow spots on the young leaves in the initial stages of infection. As the disease progresses, the leaves exhibit irregular yellow patches alternating with normal green colour of the leaves. The older leaves of infected plants become chlorotic, noticeably thickened, leathery and brittle. The foliage becomes abnormally red or yellow and often dies.

Pathogen

Beet yellow virus (BYV) and beet mild yellowing virus (BMV) both can occur alone or together to result in yellows. Beet mild yellowing virus make the plants more susceptible to fungal attack (Powdery mildew).

Mode of spread and survival

The viruses are spread to healthy plants by aphids. Beet yellow virus persists in aphids for few hours, but once infected with beet mild yellowing virus and aphids remains infective for most of its life cycle. The main field vector is *Myzus persicae* but other aphids may spread the viruses, eg. The black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) can also spread BYV but not BMV.

Management

Control measures include removal of infected plants and weeds from the field. The disease incidence can be minimized by controlling the population of aphids by spraying oxydemeton Methyl 25 EC (2ml/litre of water)

Purple Leaf of Beet virus

Symptoms

This viral disease is caused by a strain of tobacco mosaic virus (TMV). The infected plants are stunted and leaves have a tendency to stand erect and come closer, unlike the healthy

plants where the leaves are broad, long and profuse. Leaves of infected plants show an unusual intense purple colour, while the young emerging leaves show it prominently. Few leaves develop minute necrotic lesions all over the lamina.

Mode of spread

The virus is readily transmissible through sap.

Management

Removal and destruction of virus-infected plants and weed hosts helps in minimizing disease

Radish

Alternaria Blight : *Alternaria raphani*

Symptoms



The pathogen affects leaves, stem, pods and seeds. Symptoms of the disease first appear on the leaves of seed stem in the form of small, yellowish, slightly raised lesions. Lesions appear later on the stems and seed pods. Infection spreads rapidly during rainy weather, and the entire pod may be so infected that the style end becomes black and shriveled. The fungus penetrates in pod tissues, ultimately infecting the seeds. The infected seed fails to germinate.

Pathogen

A. raphani conidia are 70 – 115 x 14 – 18 micron in size.

Mode of spread and survival

It is seed borne. The fungus subsists as mycelium in the infected plant refuse. They also survive in susceptible weeds or perennial crops. The conidia are borne abundantly in moist atmosphere and are disseminated readily by air currents.

Management

Spraying with Mancozeb 0.25 %

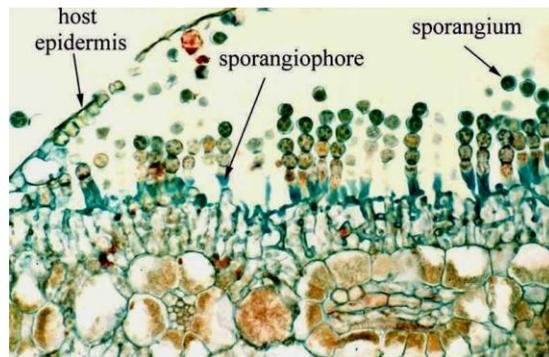
White Rust: *Albugo candida*

Symptoms



Disease attacks the leaves and flowering shoots. Affected flowering shoots get deformed and bear only malformed flowers. White powdery substance in patches is observed on the under surface of the leaves.

Pathogen



Here, Pathogen is an obligate parasite; Mycelium is intercellular producing knob shaped haustoria in the host cells. Each sporangium has 4 to 8 zoospores.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Over wintering may be through oospores in plant debris in the soil and mixed with seeds and perennial mycelium in weed hosts are primary source of inoculum.

Management

Regular spraying with Mancozeb 0.25 % effectively controls the disease.

Cauliflower

Downy Mildew: *Peronospora parasitica*

Symptoms



Downy mildew can cause much of a field of milk white cauliflower curds to develop superficial discolored spots that renders the disease damage heads unmarketable.

Pathogen

Conidiophores are erect, dichotomously branched; conidia are broadly oval, ellipsoidal and hyaline.

Mode of Spread and Survival

The fungus penetrates in the soil through oospores in hosts. Secondary spread of the disease is through water and wind borne conidia.

Management

Seed treatment with Metalaxyl (Apron 6g/kg). Foliar spray with Metalaxyl (Ridomil) @ 0.4 %

Wire stem: *Rhizoctonia solani*

Symptoms:



Wire stem can be a seed problem where cauliflower or other cruciferous transplants are grown crowded together in unsterilized soil or seedling beds. This disease makes the seedlings unsuitable for transplanting since many of the affected plants will die or grow poorly.

Pathogen

The fungus shows branching at right angles near the distal septum in young hyphae. Sclerotia are irregular, brown to black and 5mm in dia. The fungus produces both terminal and intercalary, barrel shaped chlamydospores. In the perfect stage basidia are produced on the host. They are barrel shaped, clavate and have four sterigmata. Basidiophores are hyaline and ellipsoid.

Management

Sterilized soil and seedbed drenches with Copper oxychloride 0.25% will give good disease control

Cabbage

Black leg: *Phoma lingam*

Symptoms



It is caused by *Phoma lingam* and occurs in most regions, specially in areas with rainfall during the growing period. The fungus is carried by the seed and hence it may occur from the early stage. Stem of the affected plant when split vertically, shows severe black discoloration of sap stream. Whole root system decays from bottom upwards. Frequently, the affected plants fall over in the field.

Pathogen

Pycnidia are flask shaped, dark coloured and sometimes with papillate ostiole. Ascocaeaps are globose, & Ascospores are biseptate, ellipsoidal.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Phoma lingam can survive for up to four years in seed and three years in infected crop debris. The pathogen infects seedlings, forms pycnidia, and produces abundant amounts of spores which exude from the pycnidia in long coils and are splashed to nearby plants to initiate new infections. The disease is favored by wet, rainy weather.

Management

Seed infection can be prevented by spraying the seed plants with copper oxychloride or with an organo mercuric compound. Seed treatment with Captan or Thiram 4g/kg of seed, followed by seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride* 4g/kg. Pusa Drumhead, a cabbage cultivar has been reported to be tolerant under field condition.

Downy mildew: *Peronospora parasitica*

Symptoms



It may attack young plants and also at the seed production stage as being commonly observed in northern India in recent years, when high humidity prevails during seed production stage. The fungus when attacks the young seedlings, discoloration occurs and in severe cases the whole plant perishes. Purplish leaf spots or yellow brown spots on the upper surface of the leaf appear, while fluffy downy fungus growth is found on the lower surface.

Pathogen

It is an obligate parasite. It has large, finger shaped or clavate and branched haustoria. Conidiophores are erect and dichotomously branched. Sterigmata are long, slender and pointed. A single conidium is borne at the tip of each branch. Conidia are broadly oval, ellipsoidal and hyaline. Oogonium is spherical and hyaline. Oospores are globose and yellow in color.

Mode of Spread and Survival

The fungus attacks broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, radish and turnip. The fungus perennates in the soil through oospores in roots or in old diseased plant parts and as contaminant with seeds. It also persists in perennial hosts. Secondary spread of the disease is through water and wind borne conidia.

Management

Seed treatment with Metalaxyl (Apron 6g/kg of seed). Foliar spraying with Metalaxyl (Ridomil) 0.4%.

Root rot: *Rhizoctonia solani*

Symptoms

Young plants show soft, water soaked lesion on the stem near soil level, the cotyledons wither and the plant eventually falls over and perishes. When infection occurs at a later stage of

growth, the lower part shows discoloration over a length of several centimeters, becomes hard and woody, and thinner than usual as the cortical tissue dies and this phenomenon is known as wire stem.

Pathogen

The fungus shows branching at right angles near the distal septum in young hyphae. Sclerotia are irregular, brown to black and 5mm in dia. The fungus produces both terminal and intercalary, barrel shaped chlamydospores. In the perfect stage basidia are produced on the host. They are barrel shaped, clavate and have four sterigmata. Basidiophores are hyaline and ellipsoid.

Management

Nursery beds: Soil drenching with Methyl bromide @ 1 kg/10 m² and covered with polythene sheet. Seed treatment with Captan/Thiram 4g/kg, followed by seed treatment with Trichoderma viride 4g/kg.

Black spot: *Alternaria* sp.

Symptoms



In older plants, leaves, petioles, and stems small, brown to black circular to slightly elongated spots appear. Sometimes the spots join together. It causes damage to cabbage heads and cauliflower curds after maturity and during seed production stage.

Pathogen

The fungal hyphae are branched, septate, inter and intracellular. Conidiophores arise singly or in groups of 2 to 12. They are simple, erect, cylindrical, slightly swollen at base, septate, pale, smooth and 90 x 5 to 8 mm. Conidia are formed in chains of 20 or more. They are cylindrical, muriform, tapering slightly towards the apex and the basal cell is rounded.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Pathogens are seed borne or the conidia are borne abundantly in moist atmosphere and are disseminated readily by air currents.

Management

First foliar spraying with Tridemorph 0.1% followed by spraying with Mancozeb 0.25% a month interval.

Club root: *Plasmodiophora brassicae*

Symptoms



Stunting and yellowing of plants. Leaves become yellowish and wilt on hot days. Club like swelling of root and root lets. Club root is particularly prevalent on soils with a pH below 7, whereas it has been observed that the disease is often less serious on heavy soils and on soils containing little organic matter.

Pathogen

Primary zoospores are anteriorly by flagellate which is of whiplash type. Secondary zoospores are smaller than primary zoospores.

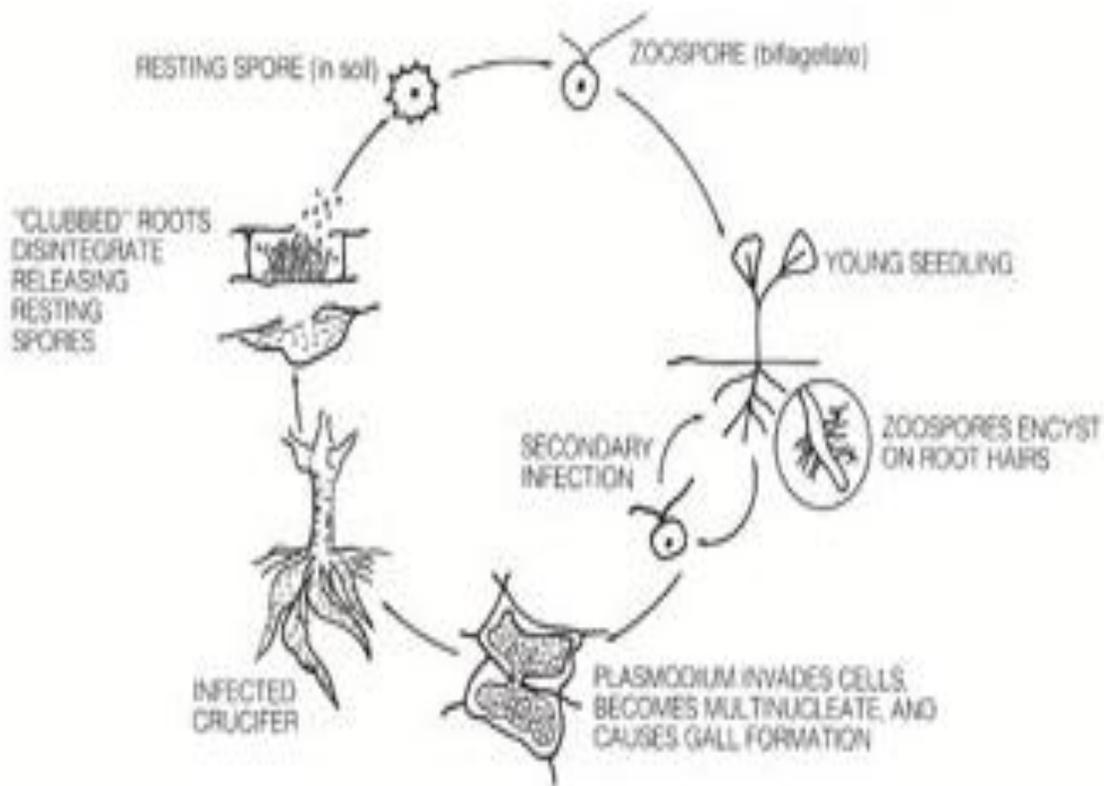
Mode of Spread and Survival

Fungus is soil borne and survival in the crop refuses in the form of minute resting spores for at least 10 years. Contaminated soil can be caused by wheel of implements, carts, tools and on the feet of human being.

Disease Cycle

P. brassicae is capable of surviving in the soil for 7-10 years or longer as resting spores. The resting spores of the fungus can be spread from field to field by infested soil, contaminated water supplies, infected transplants, infested soil on farm machinery, and even by roving animals such as cattle. When soil conditions dictate, the resting spores of the pathogen germinate to

produce zoospores, which are able to "swim" by means of flagella to infect susceptible plant root hairs. The germination of resting spores requires moist, acid soil and can occur over a wide temperature range of 12-27°C. Disease development is favored by high soil moisture and soil temperatures between 18-25°C. Although clubroot has been found in soils exhibiting a wide pH range from 4.5-8.1, the disease is primarily associated with acid soils. Within the infected plant roots, the organism develops rapidly, causing an increase in the number and size of cells, which results in "clubbing." During the development of the organism in the plant, new zoospores are produced; these are capable of infecting the same plant or adjacent plants and, thus, repeating the cycle. Eventually, resting spores are formed within the diseased plant tissue, and these are released into the soil when the plant roots disintegrate.



Management

Soil fumigation with Methly bromide 1kg/10m² followed by covering with plastic film. Seed treatment with Captan/Thiram 4g/kg, followed by *T.viride* 4g/kg. Application of lime 2.5 t/ha. Soil drenching with Copper oxychloride 0.25%.

Powdery mildew: *Erysiphe polygoni*

Symptoms



Initially, white tufts of mould arise on the upper surface of the leaves and later run together and the entire leaf becomes covered with greyish white mycelium.

Pathogen

Conidiophores are septate. The cleistothecia are sharp and globose.

Mode of Spread and Survival

The disease spread through water and wind borne conidia.

Management

Spary inorganic sulphur 0.25% or Dinocap 0.05%.

Bacterial diseases

Black rot: *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

Symptoms



The infection of the foliage results in yellow 'V' shaped spots arising along the margin which extend in the direction of the midrib. These spots are associated with a typical black discoloration of the veins. The infection extends through the xylem to the stalk and the vascular bundles turn black. In severe infection, the whole leaf shows discoloration and eventually falls off.

Pathogen

It is gram negative, short rod with rounded ends and non capsulated. It occurs singly, rarely in pairs and motile with single polar flagellum.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Black rot is spread rapidly during warm, humid weather, with an optimal temperature range of 27- 30°C at 80- 100% humidity. Once in the soil, the bacteria are spread by splashing rain and wind. Bacteria enter plants through wounds or natural openings at the leaf margins called [hydathodes](#)

Management

Seed treatment with Aureomycin 1000ppm for 30 min is effective in killing both the internally and externally seed-borne pathogen. Drenching the nursery soil with formaldehyde 0.5% helps in checking the disease. Application of bleaching powder at 10.0 to 12.5 kg/ha controls the disease.

Turnip

Alternaria Leaf Spot: *Alternaria* spp.

Symptoms



The pathogen affects leaves, stem, pods and seeds. Symptoms of the disease first appear on the leaves of seed stem in the form of small, yellowish, slightly raised lesions. Lesions appear later on the stems and seed pods. Infection spreads rapidly during rainy weather, and the entire

pod may be so infected that the styler end becomes black and shrivelled. The fungus penetrates in pod tissues, ultimately infecting the seeds. The infected seed fails to germinate.

Pathogen

The fungal hyphae are branched, septate, inter and intracellular. Conidiophores arise singly or in groups of 2 to 12. They are simple, erect, cylindrical, slightly swollen at base, septate, pale, smooth and 90 x 5 to 8 mm. Conidia are formed in chains of 20 or more. They are cylindrical, muriform, tapering slightly towards the apex and the basal cell is rounded.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Pathogens are seed borne or the conidia are borne abundantly in moist atmosphere and are disseminated readily by air currents.

Management

Spraying with Mancozeb 0.25 %

Carrot

Bacterial blight: *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *carotae*

Symptoms



The bacterium causes irregular brown spot on leaves, dark brown streaks on petioles and a blighting of floral parts. Lesions on foliage begin as small yellow spots. Soon the centre of the spots they become dry and brittle with an irregular halo.

Pathogen

The bacterium is rod shaped and polar flagellum.

Mode of Spread and Survival

The bacterium is borne in and on seed from diseased seed plants. They also live in soil. Rain or irrigation water splashes bacteria from cotyledons or soil to young seedlings. Insects also carry the bacterium mechanically. Under rainy warm conditions, epidemics occur rapidly.

Disease Cycle

The carrot leaf blight pathogens survive on or in the seed and on diseased crop debris in the soil. The fungal pathogens produce spores that become airborne and are spread predominantly by wind. The bacterial pathogen is spread primarily by wind-driven rain or by irrigation water. Moisture is essential for infection by all blight organisms because bacterial cells and fungal spores require surface moisture and warm temperatures to germinate. The higher the temperature, the shorter the wet period required for infection. When temperatures are warm or when moisture in the form of rain, dew, or irrigation water is persistent, the threat of infection and rapid spread of leaf blight organisms is high.

Management

Spraying early with Copper oxychloride 0.25 %.

Bacterial soft rot: *Erwinia carotovora* sp. *Carotovora*

Symptoms



Cells become water soaked, the middle lamella is destroyed and the cells collapse into a soft, watery slimy mass. The rotted tissues are grey to brown. they may be accompanied by a foul odour. The decay develops most rapidly along the core of the root.

Pathogen

It is large, gram negative and motile with large peritrichous flagella.

Mode of Spread and Survival

Soil is the principal source of primary inoculum for stored carrots. Soil that contains debris from plants that were diseased the previous year is the most important inoculum source. The pathogen lives and multiplies within the soil. If soft rot occurs on carrot roots in fields, the inoculum source can be traced back to carrot foliage from which it moves directly down to the roots. Harvest bruises, freezing injury, fungus invasion and insect wounds offer penetration sites.

Management

Dipping in a solution of 1:500 of sodium hypochlorite before storage or transits reduce the disease.

Cercospora leaf spot: *Cercospora carotae*

Symptom



The first symptom usually appears as elongated lesions along the edge of the leaf segment. Non-marginal lesions appear as small, pin-point chlorotic spots which shows develop into a necrotic center surrounded by a diffuse chlorotic border. Coalescence of spots is common. linear dark lesions develop on the petiole, sometimes girdling the latter and killing the leaf.

Pathogen

Conidiophores are interminate in growth and show scars where conidia attached. The conidia are slightly obclavate, hyaline and many celled.

Mode of Spread and Survival

The fungus subsists on seed and diseased crop residues. Stromatic masses in diseased tissues are the main source of survival from season to season. They produce conidia which are transmitted by wind or water.

Management

Seed treatment with Captan 4g/kg. Spraying at 10 days interval with Copper oxychloride or Mancozeb.

Sclerotinia Rot or White mold: *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*

Symptom:



Mycelia growth and sclerotia (red arrow)

Carrots may show little or no damage incidence in the field but following washing and storage white mold outbreaks often occur on the stored roots. Only a small percentage of the roots may be initially infected but the fungus mycelium can move very rapidly from carrot to carrot. In a matter of weeks the whole storage container may become a mass of white mold and black sclerotia surrounding each and every carrot.

Management

Frequent inspection in storage, low temperatures, aeration and washing in a final water of 2-5 % diluted bleach solution may give adequate control (1 part bleach, (sodium hypochlorite) to 20 parts water.

Asparagus

Crown Rot & Seedling Blight: *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *asparagi*

Symptoms



Crown rot coupled with winter injury can reduce newly seeded and established asparagus plantings by up to 50% or more in a year. Infected seedlings will exhibit stunting, yellowing and wilting of the foliage as the primary roots are rotted off. Established plants will produce spindly spears in the spring. Shoots become dwarfed, wilted and brown in color. Later in the season one or more shoots per crown appear stunted, turn yellow, then can wilt and die. Roots are also rotted and discolored.

Management

The disease is seed- and soil-borne. New plantings should be established on soil (well-drained, sand-loam soils are preferred) where asparagus has not been previously grown for at least five years. Use strong healthy plants (1 year crowns) to start a plantation and to ensure good

plant health by following good planting and growing procedures such as fertilization, insect and weed control and avoid over harvesting.

Purple Spot: *Stemphyllium vesicarium*

Symptoms



This disease can render the spears unmarketable by the presence of numerous purplish lesions or spots. The lesions are superficial, slightly sunken and purple. There can also be larger spots that are brown in the middle with a purple margin. Often these lesions will be more prevalent on one side of the spear than the other. On the asparagus fern there will be light brown lesions, up to 15mm long, with dark purple edges. In severe cases, defoliation and dieback can happen. Repeated defoliation can lead to a reduction in yield.

Management

Remove or bury crop residue in the fall to help limit infection.

Rust: *Puccinia asparagi*

Symptoms



Red or brown elongated spots appear on the shoots spears or needles of asparagus. Successive years of infestation reduces root vitality resulting in poor shoot development and death.

Management

Plant in areas with good air circulation and irrigate during the day so plants can dry out before evening.

