



Late Blight

About Late Blight

Late Blight is a fungal disease that can serious damage to a wide range of vegetables including tomato, potato, pepper, and eggplant. The disease survives from one season to the next in plant material (e.g., in potato tubers).

Damage

On leaves: Late blight lesions usually appear first as irregular, small pale to dark green water-soaked spots that are surrounded by a zone of yellowish tissue. Lesions may expand rapidly and become brown to purplish black. White spores of the fungus may be observed at the periphery of lesions, principally on the underside of leaves.

On stems and petioles: Lesions are brown to black and may also show white fungal spores.

On Fruit: Fruit discoloration usually begins on the upper side of the fruit. Affected fruit remain firm.

Solutions

Late blight produces millions of spores under wet weather conditions and the spores from infected plants can travel through the air and if the weather is wet enough.

Cultural control

The most effective strategy is to avoid sources of infection.

- Destroy all infected tomato, potato, eggplant, and pepper debris after harvest.
- Plant only certified seeds.

Avoid sprinkler irrigation.

Chemical control Fungicides are necessary to protect the plants from infection. The fungicide has to be of protectant materials because it can be there before the spores land on the plants.

Source: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

Statewide IPM Program, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California
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Close-up of underside of lesion showing cottony, white mold growth of the late blight fungus on potato leaf.



Fruit discoloration due to Late Blight

For more information visit: International Programs <http://ip.ucdavis.edu>

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