

Downy mildew of cucumber

Recognize the problem

- Lesions on leaves are typical polygons with clear angular edges. At first, lesions are pale yellow, and then turn brown in later stages. During early morning observation of the lower surface of leaf spot lesions, you will see a layer of white or pale yellow filaments.
- The disease usually occurs in the lower leaves first, and then gradually spreads to the upper leaves
- Infected leaves turn yellow and drop off, affecting plant growth
- Severely infected plants will produce small fruits

Downy mildew symptom. (Photo by Wanpen Srichart Department of Agriculture, Thailand, PaDIL, CC BY)



Background

- The fungus that causes this disease usually attacks cucumber plants and other plants in the same family, i.e. pumpkin and squash
- This disease is spread by wind and rain splash or sprinklers
- The disease survives well in the following conditions: rainy weather, high humidity, night dew and cool weather

Management

- Remove crop residues after harvest
- Plant in raised planting beds
- Avoid using overhead irrigation (sprinklers)
- Remove old leaves and any leaves that are infected with the disease
- Spray fungicides when disease symptoms are first observed. Fungicides to be used are: zineb, copper oxychloride, mancozeb, metalaxyl, propineb. Please follow the pre-harvest interval (PHI) and use the recommended dosages given on the product label.

Typical mosaic symptoms on the upper side of the leaf. (Photo by Christian Hummer, CC BY)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Vietnam



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