

Fusarium wilt on chilli

Recognize the problem

Fusarium causes wilting and drying of chilli plants. The disease is difficult to control effectively because it is soil-borne and can spread to other fields. This disease is common in several crops.

Background

Chilli is an export crop which can provide a high income for farmers. Infection with Fusarium can result in yield losses of 20-30%. Fusarium disease can survive for many years in soil or plant residues. There are very few varieties of chilli that are genetically resistant to this disease. Fusarium spreads rapidly by water flow, rain splash and by movement of infected soil or plant material, especially seeds.

Management

- Use certified seeds
- Seed treatment with fungicides such as benomyl (e.g. Benlate at 100-200g/ acre) or carbendazim (e.g. Bavistin at 150-250cc/ acre)
- Reduce the nitrogen fertilizers dose to 112 lb/Acre to reduce the disease
- Apply *Trichoderma viride* to the soil twice per crop season. Apply for the first time at land preparation and the second time at planting.
- Collect and burn any infected plants
- Maintain the pH level of the soil
- Do not apply any chemical fungicide at the time of harvesting, or when applying *Trichoderma* as the chemical will affect this beneficial fungus

Chili plant infected with Fusarium wilt. (Photo by A.A. Seif & B. Nyambo, icipe)



Chili field infected with Fusarium wilt. Note gaps due to death of plants. (Photo by A. A. Seif & B. Nyambo, icipe)



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) > *Fusarium oxysporum*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Myanmar [Burma]



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