

Mechanical Control of Potato Early blight

Recognize the problem

Early blight is a fungal disease of potato, with the disease prevalent during periods of dry weather with intermittent rain. The disease may appear in an epidemic in many parts of the potato growing areas.

Background

The disease first appears on the older leaves of potato plants as angular, oval or circular shaped necrotic spots. These spots are dry and brittle compared with those caused by late blight and rarely exceed 1 cm in diameter. A number of these spots can, however, fuse to cover the entire leaf. Under humid conditions, the disease spreads rapidly from the lower leaves to those at the top and may cause premature death of plants.

Management

- Crop debris should be destroyed by burning after the harvest.
- Crop rotation with non-host crops like, cereals, pulses and clover.
- Field must be ploughed 30 days before sowing seed or tubers.
- Seed or tuber must be certified and disease free.
- Distance between rows 30x30 cm and between plants 90x90 cm.
- Weed control regularly.
- Regular irrigation and avoid over-watering.

Lesion on leaves. (Photo by James Muema, MOALFD, Kenya)



Lesion on tuber. (Photo by Sandra Jensen, Cornell University, Bugwood.org)



Scientific name(s) > *Alternaria solani*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Afghanistan, All Countries



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