



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Beetroot (silver beet) leaf spot (320)



Photo 1. Leaf spot on beetroot, *Cercospora beticola*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Damage mostly on older leaves, especially severe on sugar beet, but also on beetroot, silver beet, amaranthus, spinach, lettuce, weeds. Potential to damage baby-leaf crops.
- Leaf spots, round to irregular, 2-5 mm wide, ash-grey to pale brown, usually with brown or reddish-purple borders. Spores develop on the spots; sometimes centres fall out. Spots join together, leaves dry, later collapse, although remain attached to the plant.
- Spread by rain-splash and wind. Survival on crop debris in soil, seed, weeds.
- Cultural control: certified seed; weed (especially, *Chenopodium*); collect debris and destroy after harvest; crop rotation.
- Chemical control: use mancozeb. Apply when symptoms first appear, repeating at 7-10 intervals.

Common Name

Beetroot leaf spot

Scientific Name

Cercospora beticola

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Information *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing, and from CABI (2017) *Cercospora beticola* (*cercospora leaf spot of beets*) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc). Photo 1 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Cercospora beticola* PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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