



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Carrot leaf spot (135)



Photo 1. Small, dark angular spots of *Alternaria* leaf spot caused by *Alternaria dauci*. During humid weather the spots join together developing into a blight - a rapid death of the leaves.



Photo 2. Blight of carrot leaves caused by the carrot leaf spot fungus, *Alternaria dauci*.



Photo 3. Leaf blight of carrot, *Alternaria dauci*.



Photo 4. Leaf blight of carrot, *Alternaria dauci*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On members of the carrot or parsley family: mostly carrot, but also celery, dill, parsley, parsnip, wild carrot. A serious fungal disease of wet weather.
- Spots on older and then younger leaves, becoming a blight as spots merge, and leaves blacken. It also causes damping-off.
- Spread is in wind-driven rain, and on or in seed.
- Cultural control: certified seed or hot water (50°C for 25-30 mins.); tolerant varieties; nursery hygiene: clean trays, pasteurise soil or soilless mixes, monitor and discard infected plants; do not plant too densely; weed; collect and burn trash or plough in remains after harvest; 3-year crop rotations.
- Chemical control: seed - captan or thiram; field – copper, mancozeb, or those in strobilurin and DMI (demethylation inhibitor) groups of fungicides, alternating with either of the first two.

Common Name

Carrot leaf spot, *Alternaria* leaf spot of carrot

Scientific Name

Alternaria dauci. Note, another fungus, *Cercospora carotae*, produces similar symptoms.

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Information (and Photo 1) is from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing, and from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany. Photo 2 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*.

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