



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Celery early blight (136)



Photo 1. Irregular-shaped spots, brown with grey centres, occur on the leaves, and in wet weather develop into a blight.



Photo 2. Irregular-shaped spots, brown with grey centres, some enlarging and joining together.



Photo 3. The spots of *Cercospora apii* occur on all the leaves and do considerable damage.



Photo 4. The individual spots of *Cercospora apii* have joined together to form a blight which is destroying the leaves.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. North and South America, Asia, Oceania. A damaging fungal disease.
- First, on older, outer, leaves - yellow spots with grey centres, up to 12mm diam., developing into a blight. Later, on the stalks.
- Spread by rain splash, on wind and on seed. Survival in crop debris and seed.
- Cultural control: seed treatment: hot water (48°C for 30 min), but only treat seed <3 years' old; in nursery, use pasteurised or soilless mixes; use wide spacing and raised beds to improve air circulation in field; use drip not overhead irrigation; plough in remains at harvest, or collect and burn.
- Chemical control: seed - thiram; field – chlorothalonil, mancozeb, copper; or those in strobilurin, DMI (demethylation inhibitor) groups of fungicides, alternating with the first any of the first three.

Common Name

Celery early blight

Scientific Name

Cercospora apii

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Information (and Photo 1) 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&3 Jacque (Wright) Kami, formerly Plant Pathologist, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji.

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

