



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coffee brown-eye spot (142)



Photo 1. Coffee seedlings showing small brown spots of *Cercospora coffeicola*.



Photo 2. Circular brown spots, mostly 5-10 mm, with bright grey centres and yellow haloes, typical of brown-eye leaf spot, *Cercospora coffeicola*. Spores of the fungus form in the grey centres.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On arabica and robusta coffee. An important disease.
- Spots on leaves, light brown (sometimes grey), with brown outside and yellow margins, up to 15 mm, sometimes a blight. Small irregular spots on berries.
- In nursery, can cause leaf fall and dieback; less a problem in field, unless poor nutrition and shade.
- Spores spread by wind and rain; germinate in water.
- Cultural control: spacing, and N and K nutrition in nursery and field; shade in field (35-65%); prune to improve air movement; collect prunings and burn.
- Chemical control: copper (protectant); triazoles (systemic).

Common Name

Coffee spot, berry blotch, coffee brown eye spot

Scientific Name

Mycosphaerella coffeicola is the name of the sexual form of the fungus; the disease is also known by the asexual form, *Cercospora coffeicola*.

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Information from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany; and from *Diseases of fruit crops in Australia* (2009). Editors, Tony Cooke, Denis Persley, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing. Photos 1&2 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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