



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Lettuce Septoria leaf spot (150)



Photo 1. Light brown irregular spots of *Septoria lactucae* between the veins are the first signs of lettuce leaf spot.



Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On lettuce. An important disease.
- A fungus producing large spots between the veins which dry and fall out. Fruiting bodies filled with spores occur in the spots. Spread occurs in rain-splash, wind-driven rain, and in infected seed.
- Worse during periods of high rainfall when spots merge to destroy leaves and reduce quality.
- Cultural control: use certified seed; check plants in the nursery for leaf spots; use drip rather than overhead irrigation; collect debris and incorporate into soil or burn; 3-year crop rotation.
- Chemical control: use copper or mancozeb; if systemic products needed, use triazoles.

Common Name

Lettuce leaf spot and blight; Septoria spot, Septoria leaf spot

Scientific Name

Septoria lactucae

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Information (and Photo 3) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany; and information (and Photos 1&2) from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing.

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