



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Maize common rust (225)



Photo 1. Some stages of the life cycle of common rust, *Puccinia sorghi*, occur on *Oxalis*.



Photo 2. Pustules of rust, *Puccinia sorghi*, on the upper surface of a maize leaf.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On maize and sweet corn. There are two kinds, both may occur on maize at the same time. Maize common rust has the weed *Oxalis* as a host. Important disease, more severe on sweet corn.
- Round, oval and irregular pustules, powdery, brown, becoming darker as the plant matures, on leaves, leaf sheaths and stems. The pustules are most common on the leaves where they are scattered on both surface.
- Spread is by wind-blown spores.
- Cultural control: resistant varieties; weed, especially *Oxalis*; remove volunteer plants; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: not needed on maize; on sweet corn use chlorothalonil or mancozeb.

Common Name

Common rust (*Puccinia sorghi*); American rust (*Puccinia polysora*) (see Fact Sheet no. 042).

Scientific Name

Puccinia sorghi (also known as *Puccinia maydis*). Another rust affects maize in the region, southern rust, *Puccinia polysora* (see Fact Sheet no. 42).

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Information from CABI (2015) *Puccinia sorghi* (common rust of maize), and CABI (2013) *Puccinia polysora* (American corn rust) Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc/>). 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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