Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Maize northern leaf blight (226)

Photo 1. Large elongated grey spots of maize northern leaf blight, *Setosphaeria turcica.*

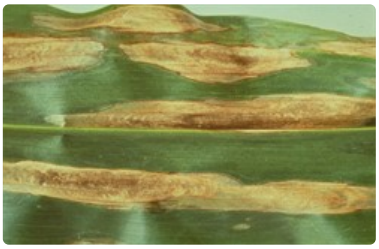

Photo 2. Spots of maize northern leaf blight, *Setosphaeria turcica,* starting to form dark masses of spores.

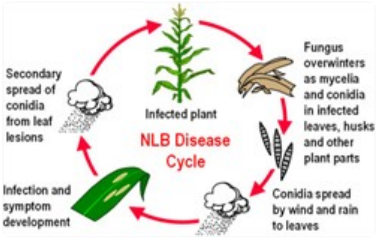

Diagram. Disease cycle of maize northern leaf blight (NLB). The spores are called "conidia", and the cottony growth of the fungus, "mycelia").

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On maize, sorghum and wild grasses. An important disease.
- Large, oval, grey or light brown, spots, 25-150 mm, sometimes with dark margins. Spots merge. Brown spore masses in rings. Leaves dry out and die.
- Spread is by rain splash and wind.
- Cultural control: resistant varieties; adequate amounts of P and K, but do not over supply N; weed, especially grasses; crop rotation; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: unlikely to be economic; if needed use chlorothalonil and mancozeb.

Common Name

Maize leaf blight, maize northern leaf blight

Scientific Name

Setosphaeria turcica; the asexual stage name is *Exserohilum turcicum.* It has also been known as *Helminthosporium turcicum.* There are many races or strains of the fungus.

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Information from CABI (2012) *Setosphaeria turcica* (maize leaf blight) 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. Diagram (and information) Svec L, Dolezal B *Crop insights: managing northern corn leaf blight race shifts.* Pioneer. (https://www.pioneer.com/home/site/us/agronomy/library/managing-nclb/).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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