



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

### Onion purple blotch (151)



Photo 1. Purple blotch, *Alternaria porri*, causing spots on leaves of shallots.

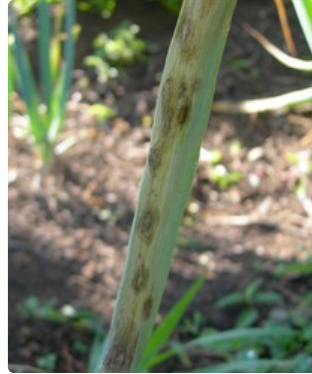


Photo 2. Purple blotch, *Alternaria porri*, on leaves of shallots showing zoned spots. Spores are produced in large numbers on these spots.



Photo 3. Leaf-tip dieback on leek, caused by the purple blotch fungus, *Alternaria porri*.



Photo 4. Purple blotch caused by *Alternaria porri*, on onion. The large spots are oval, purple and up to 150 mm long.



Photo 5. Leaf-tip dieback on shallot, caused by the purple blotch fungus, *Alternaria porri*.

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On onion, and also shallot, garlic and leek. An important disease.
- Mostly affecting leaves and causing parts above the blotches to collapse and die. Infections at harvest lead to neck rots.
- Spores spread from blotches in wind and rain splash.

- Older leaves damaged by thrips are more susceptible to the fungus.
- Cultural control: disease-free seed; check plants in nursery for leaf spots; remove “volunteers”; use drip irrigation, not overhead; apply manure to increase plant vigour; harvest when dry and cure before storage; 3-year crop rotation; collect trash and burn or plough in after harvest.
- Chemical control: chlorothalonil, copper or mancozeb (protectants); or triazoles (systemics).

## Common Name

Onion purple blotch

## Scientific Name

*Alternaria porri*

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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 from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing. Photo 2 Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org. Photos 3&5 Kohler F, Pellegri F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Photo 4 Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

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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.

