



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Rice blast (252)



Photo 1. Diamond-shaped spots on the leaves of rice leaves caused by blast, *Magnaporthe oryzae*.



Photo 2. Infections at the nodes of stems below the neck, caused by blast, *Magnaporthe oryzae*. The infections occur beneath the flower head and can lead to death of the stem.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On rice and wild grasses. An important disease.
- Spots oval or diamond-shaped, 5-15 mm, with whitish-grey centres and dark brown borders, merging, killing the leaves. Rots of leaf sheath, stem and panicles. Plants killed until tillering stage.
- Spread of spores in irrigation water and by wind.
- Cultural control: sow to avoid flowering at wettest times; avoid overlapping crops; split N applications; space plants to maximise air flow; collect and burn trash after harvest. Use chemicals at heading stage.
- Chemical control: Seed/field treatment: mancozeb, captan (protectants); azoles, strobilurins (eradicants).

Common Name

Rice blast

Scientific Name

Magnaporthe oryzae. Previously, *Magnaporthe grisea*. *Pyricularia oryzae* is the asexual name.

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Photos 1 IRRI Rice Knowledge Bank; information (and Photo 2) CABI (2015) *Magnaporthe grisea* (rice blast disease) Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc/>).

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