

Cabbage downy mildew (192)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On brassicas, crops, weeds and ornamentals. An important disease in sub-tropics.
- Yellow to pale brown spots develop into irregular patches on upper surface of leaves, with growth of the water mould (oomycete) below. Seedlings stunted or killed. Damage on flower heads of broccoli and cauliflower greater than on plants used for leaves, e.g., cabbage.
- Spread in wind and rain, and trade in seedlings.
- Cultural control: weed; water early in day; avoid overcrowding; crop rotation, collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: copper, chlorothalonil, mancozeb (protectants); or metalaxyl, phosphorous acid (systemic).

Common Name

Cabbage downy mildew

Scientific Name

Hyaloperonospora parasitica; previously known as *Peronospora parasitica*. There are different strains of the Oomycete such that the strain on radish does little damage to cabbage.



Photo 1. Older leaves of cabbage seedlings showing speckled appearance caused by downy mildew, *Hyaloperonospora parasitica*.



Photo 2. Infection in the field: spots on the leaves caused by downy mildew, *Hyaloperonospora parasitica*, join together in wet weather and form large patches of decay.

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Photo 1 *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, et al. CSIRO Publishing; and from CABI (2019) *Hyaloperonospora parasitica* (downy mildew). *Crop Protection Compendium*. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/39723>). Photo 2 Kohler F, et al. (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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