

Cucurbit leaf spot (145)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On watermelon (and squash), and other members of the cucumber family, including weeds. A minor disease, worse under shade.
- Small, about 5 mm, round spots with grey centres, brown margins, and sometimes yellow halos. Centres may fall out, spots merge, resulting in black areas, and leaf fall.
- Spores on the underside of the leaves are spread in wind and rain.
- Cultural control: do not plant new crops next to old; use 3-4-year rotation; weed; do not grow watermelon under shade; collect and burn trash after harvest. Chemical control: copper, chlorothalonil, or mancozeb.

Common Name

Cercospora leaf spot

Scientific Name

Cercospora citrullina: note, previously this has been a name for *Dydymella bryoniae* (now *Stagonosporopsis cucurbitacearum*) (see **Fact sheet nos. 07 & 201**)

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Information from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany, and Schwartz, Gent DF (2007) *Cercospora leaf spot (cucumber, melon, pumpkin, squash, and zucchini)*. High Plains IPM Guide, a cooperative effort of the University of Wyoming, University of Nebraska, Colorado State University and Montana State University. (<http://wiki.bugwood.org/uploads/CercosporaLeafSpot-Cucurbits.pdf>); and Cucurbit diseases (undated) *Cercospora leaf spot*. UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (<https://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/u-scout/cucurbit/cercospora-leaf-spot.html>). Photos 1&2 Gerald Holmes, Valent USA Corporation, Bugwood.org.

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Photo 1. Symptoms of cucurbit leaf spot, *Cercospora citrullina*, on squash, showing many small spots with grey centres.



Photo 2. Close-up of cucurbit leaf spot, *Cercospora citrullina*, on a squash leaf showing small spots, brown with grey centres.

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