

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Lettuce *Cercospora* leaf spot (210)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Tropics and sub-tropics. On lettuce, and relatives in daisy family, including weeds. Occasionally, an important disease.
- Spots circular to oval, brown, with whitish centres, up to 1 cm. Later, merge. On older leaves first.
- Wet weather disease; spores spread in wind and rain.
- Cultural control: in nurseries – keep free of weeds and avoid overcrowding; in field – space plants to allow air movement; drip irrigation; weed; 2-3-year crop rotation; avoid overlapping crops; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: likely that cultural practices sufficient; if fungicide needed, use mancozeb.

Common Name

Lettuce leaf spot

Scientific Name

Cercospora lactucae-sativae; previously known as *Cercospora longissima*. It is closely related to *Cercospora apii*.

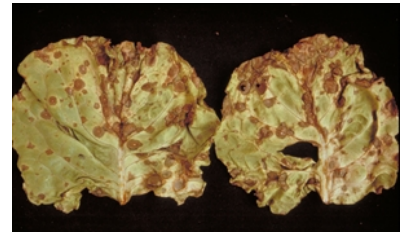


Photo 1. Lettuce leaf spot, *Cercospora lactucae-sativae*. Some spots have joined together, especially at the margins.

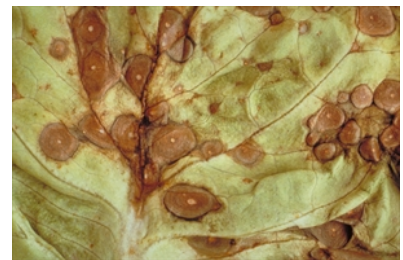


Photo 2. Brown leaf spots, *Cercospora lactucae-sativae*, showing their whitish-grey centres.



Photo 4. Severe infection of lettuce leaf spot, *Cercospora lactucae-sativae*, causing outer leaves to collapse.



Photo 3. Brown leaf spots, *Cercospora lactucae-sativae*, on an older leaf. This is where the infections begin.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from McKenzie E (2013) *Cercospora lactucae-sativae*: PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>. Photos 1&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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