

Maize northern leaf blight (226)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On maize, sorghum and wild grasses. An important disease.
- Large, oval, grey or light brown, spots, 25-150 mm, sometimes with dark margins. Spots merge. Brown spore masses in rings. Leaves dry out and die.
- Spread is by rain splash and wind.
- Cultural control: resistant varieties; adequate amounts of P and K, but do not over supply N; weed, especially grasses; crop rotation; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: unlikely to be economic; if needed use chlorothalonil and mancozeb.

Common Name

Maize leaf blight, maize northern leaf blight

Scientific Name

Setosphaeria turcica; the asexual stage name is *Exserohilum turcicum*. It has also been known as *Helminthosporium turcicum*. There are many races or strains of the fungus.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from CABI (2012) *Setosphaeria turcica* (maize leaf blight). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/49783>). 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. and *Setosphaeria turcica*. Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setosphaeria_turcica), and Diagram (and information) Svec L, Dolezal B (undated) *Crop insights: managing northern corn leaf blight race shifts*. Pioneer. (<https://www.pioneer.com/us/agronomy/Managing-Northern-Corn-Leaf-Blight.html/>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.



Photo 1. Large elongated grey spots of maize northern leaf blight, *Setosphaeria turcica*.

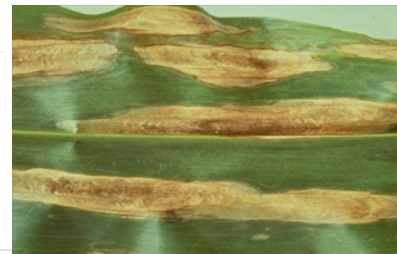


Photo 2. Spots of maize northern leaf blight, *Setosphaeria turcica*, starting to form dark masses of spores.

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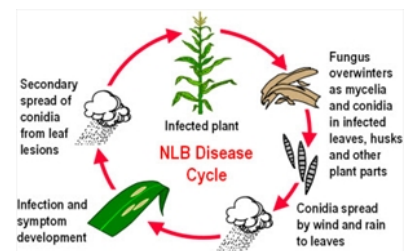


Diagram. Disease cycle of maize northern leaf blight (NLB). The spores are called 'conidia', and the cottony growth of the fungus, the 'mycelium'.



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