

Bele (Abelmoschus) leaf blotch (322)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. A minor disease of *bele* on older leaves, but important on okra.
- Leaf spots, circular to irregular, often limited by the veins, brown with blackish brown margins on the upper leaf surface and pale brown mould below. Sometimes, olive-brown to blackish-brown, indistinct angular leaf blotches occur instead of spots. Severely affected leaves turn yellow, roll, wilt, and fall.
- Spread is by spores blown by wind. Survival is in crop debris.
- Cultural control: avoid planting new crops next to infected; remove older infected leaves, and burn them; when harvesting young leaves (*bele*) or fruit (okra); collect and destroy debris after final harvest; crop rotation.
- Chemical control: use chlorothalonil, copper or mancozeb.

Common Name

Leaf mould, leaf blotch

Scientific Name

Pseudocercospora abelmoschi; previously *Cercospora abelmoschi*, *Oidium abelmoschi*.



Photo 1. Spots, round to irregular with wide dark margins, on the upper surface of bele caused by leaf mould, *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*.



Photo 2. Under surface of *bele* leaf covered by sporulating infections of leaf mould, *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*.



Photo 4. Leaf mould, *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*. Patches joining together and forming spores on the underside of an



Photo 3. Upper surface of okra leaf showing dark patches of *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*.

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Information from *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*. Editor Bob Macfarlane. Ecoport: (http://ecoport.org/ep?Fungus=23085&entityType=FU****&entityDisplayCategory=full); and from (including Photos 1,2&4) McKenzie E (2013) *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi*. PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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