

## 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.

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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](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>).

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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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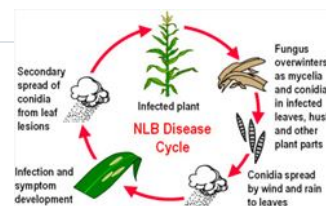


Diagram. Disease cycle of maize northern leaf blight (NLB). The spores are called 'conidia', and the cottony growth of the fungus, the 'mycelium'.



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