

INDUSTRY NOTIFICATION

Alternaria Leaf Blight of Parsley



Detection of Alternaria Leaf Blight of Parsley

1. Introduction

Alternaria leaf blight of parsley, a disease not previously recorded from Australia, has been recently found on parsley in Queensland and Victoria.

This disease, caused by the fungus *Alternaria petroselini*, commonly infects parsley overseas.

In Queensland, it caused significant damage to a single crop following extensive wet humid weather.

In Victoria, the disease has been found only on one property where it was of minor importance.

2. Symptoms of Alternaria Leaf Blight

The disease is also known as leaf spot or scorch and can cause dark spots on leaves that may lead to leaf and petiole death.



Root and crown infections can cause damping-off of seedlings and chlorosis and collapse of older plants. Overseas, the disease typically occurs during or following wet winter weather.

3. Spread of Alternaria Leaf Blight

The disease is seed-borne, planting of infested seed causes the disease to spread to new production areas.

4. Control of Alternaria Leaf Blight

As infested seed spreads the disease, control is primarily through planting high quality pathogen tested seed.

Fungicides may also assist in the management of the disease, refer to your chemical adviser for state regulations on approved products. As the disease can also be soil borne, rotation to non-umbelliferous crops for a period of 2-4 years is necessary to reduce carryover of the fungus to new parsley crops.

Response by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI)

Alternaria leaf blight is unlikely to become a major issue for parsley producers. If industry have any concerns about the disease please contact DPI Victoria – Dr. Liz Minchinton at DPI in Knoxfield on (03) 9210 9222.



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