

A Leaf Spot of Parsnip—first record in Victoria

Background of the detection

The fungus which causes a leaf spot disease of parsnip has been detected in Victoria for the first time.

The fungus was observed on the leaves of a parsnip sample collected from a crop which was half grown, around three months of age. The sample was submitted to DPI Knoxfield, and identified as *Phleospora crescentium*.

There was no previous record of this fungus in Victoria.

However, it has been reported before in other states, including Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia.

The effects of this leaf spot on parsnip produc-

tion are not well understood at present, but the disease could have yield implications.

Symptoms

The leaf spot causes severe damage to the leaves of the parsnip plant.

The fungus is associated with necrotic dark specks, which can cover the entire leaf surface.

Initially, the specks are not necrotic but yellow-green, pale green, or brownish green, angular and limited by veins, and about 1 mm in diameter.

The specks are often numerous and dense, merging into large patches which become necrotic.



Summary of current situation

There are no current market access restrictions for Victorian parsnip growers in relation to this leaf spot disease.

Growers who suspect they have observed this leaf spotting in their parsnip crops can submit samples to DPI's Crop Health Services for identification.

*Typical symptoms of leaf spot of parsnip caused by *Phleospora crescentium* (Photo courtesy DPI Victoria).*

To report suspect pests and diseases, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline:

1800 084 881

For further information, visit the Plant Standards web page:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb