

# Black rot of Cabbage

Fact  
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## Background:

Black rot of cabbage is a common disease affecting cabbage and related vegetables. It is caused by germs (Bacteria). Once your cabbages have the disease it is very difficult to control it. Plants can be affected at any time and all parts are affected.

## How the pest develops

On older plants it begins with V-shaped light brown areas on the edges of the leaves. On severely infected plants a dark ring appears within the stem of the plant. On seedlings a yellowish spot/blotch appears on the leaf which causes it to drop off.

The bacteria live in the affected areas of the plant and like wet conditions. They enter plants through damaged areas, even tiny amounts of damage (such as from insects chewing or sand blown against the leaves) can let bacteria in. They can also live in the soil and seeds of the plant. The bacteria cannot move themselves. Insects, rain splash and weeding tools, can all move the bacteria to healthy plants which will then become infected.

## Control of black rot:

- Seeds should be disease free, disease tolerant varieties should be selected.
- Don't crop cabbages or plants of the same family when black rot has occurred.
- Don't grow cabbages on the same land year after year even if they are healthy.
- When symptoms are seen the infected plants should be carefully removed.
- Diseased plants contains large amounts of bacteria ready to infect the next crop of cabbages so try to reduce the amount of diseased material being returned to the soil.
- Mulching the cabbage crop will reduce rainwater splashes to the plants, thus reduce spread of the infection/disease.
- Avoiding weeding during damp conditions, accidental damage to the plants will allow the bacteria into the plants.
- Copper oxychloride will protect the plants from further infection but will not control disease within the infected plants.



V shaped marks (arrow) on leaf edges caused by the bacterium



Dark ring can be seen when stem is cut

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