Gram wilt

Recognize the problem
Gram wilt is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil. Leaves become yellow, dry and are ultimately shed from the plant. Mature diseased plants either produce no seeds or produce small seeds that result in a reduced yield. When the stem is cut open, dark-brown to black staining can be seen. The food and water supply in the plant is blocked by the fungus, causing the plant to wilt. The wilting and drying of the plant starts at seedling and/or flowering stage. At this point the plants can be pulled out easily. The disease appears in patches in the field. Severe damage has been reported during early pod filling.

Background
The disease is spread by the sowing of infected seeds. Gram wilt can occur in dry, rain-fed and irrigated areas. Diseased plant debris, especially near the threshing area, is also a major reason for the occurrence of the disease in the following years.

Management
• Sow a resistant variety viz Balkasar 2000, Punjab 2008, Vinhar 2000, Bittal 98, CM 98, CM 2008, Thal 2011 or Noor 91
• Adopt crop rotation for at least three years
• Carry out mixed cropping of gram with wheat, barley, rape, mustard, safflower, sorghum and millet to help check the disease
• Uproot diseased plants from the field and burn
• Use a seed treatment of thiophanate-methyl (e.g. Topsin-M) at the rate of 2.5 g/kg of seed before sowing. This will save the plant against attack of the disease at the initial stages of the growth.
• Avoid making "Bhusa" stack in field

Scientific name(s) > *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. ciceris, Phytophthora megasperma*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

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