Grey leaf spot on Tomato

Recognize the problem
Leaves of plants from seedlings to mature plant stage are affected. Brown to black specks appear on both the young and older leaves. The lesions expand slowly into 1-2 mm diameter round spots that remain brown or develop a grey center surrounded by a yellow halo. Sometimes the center of the spot dries and falls out, forming a shot-hole in the leaf. Lesions may be numerous, causing entire leaves to turn yellow, then brown and drop. Defoliation can be severe, leading to sunburn damage of the fruit.

Background
The disease is favored by extended periods of leaf wetness from rains or dew and by moderate to warm temperatures (20–30°C). Leaf wetness is required for the fungus spores to germinate and is more important than temperature in establishment of infection. Sporulation is favored by alternating periods of leaf wetness and dryness. Overhead sprinkler irrigation is more favorable for disease development than furrow irrigation.

Management
• Plant resistant varieties if available. Consult your local extension agent for a listing of recommended varieties.
• Monitor at weekly intervals by checking plants carefully for first signs of the disease as described above.
• Fungicides applied at early onset of disease symptoms in susceptible varieties will provide some control.
• During the rainy season, it is better to use systemic fungicides.
• If possible, remove diseased plants or destroy them immediately after harvest.
• Remove volunteer tomatoes and solanaceous weeds or vegetable crops that may harbor the fungus.
• Alternatively, bury diseased tomato crop debris by deep-plowing to reduce spore levels available for infection of new plants.
• Avoid planting overlapping tomato crops in adjacent areas.
• Avoid using overhead irrigation.

Scientific name(s) > *Stemphylium solani, S. lycopersici*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Cambodia

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