

# Cabbage Bacterial Leaf Spot

## Recognize the problem

Small brown spots appear on leaves and spots extend or join to form irregular areas of dead tissue often limited by the leaf veins. Eventually all the leaves become yellow and rotten.

## Background

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. The bacteria cannot move themselves and need to be carried to the healthy plants by insects, rain splash or weeding tools

Close up of typical leaf spots on cabbage.



## Management

- Seeds should be disease-free before planting, make sure your seed is from a clean source.
- Tolerant varieties should be selected where possible.
- Try not to 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.
- Infected plant material will provide a large amount of bacteria ready to infect the next crop so try and reduce the amount of infected material being returned to the soil.
- Mulching the 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.
- Use bleach or fire on the weeding tools regularly so as to kill any bacteria on them.
- Chemical control is not easy for this disease however the cabbage crop may be sprayed with copper oxychloride which will protect the plants from further infection but will not control disease within the infected plants.

Bacterial leaf spot on whole cabbage.



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.

Scientific name(s) > *Alternaria brassicicola*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Ghana, Uganda



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