

1959

EC59-1820 Plant Diseases : Iris Scorch

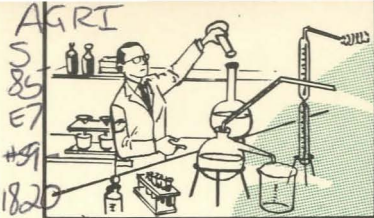
John Weihing

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E.C. 59-1820

PLANT DISEASES

JOHN L. WEIHING

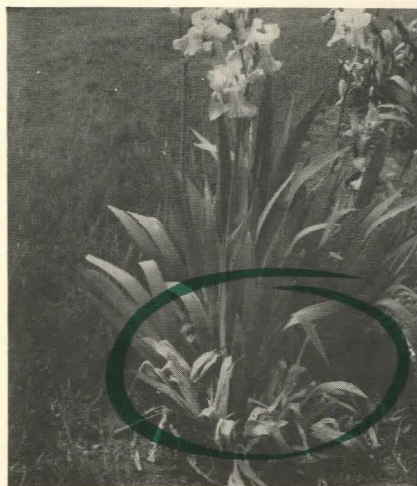
Extension Plant Pathologist

Iris Scorch

Iris scorch is a relatively new disease in Nebraska. It is easily mistaken for iris soft rot disease unless you check the rhizomes (the fleshy roots).

SYMPTOMS

The leaves of all or part of a clump of iris begin to die back from the tips. This may occur anytime during the growing season but usually is more common in the spring. The leaves continue to die-back until completely dead. The rhizomes (the fleshy roots) appear perfectly sound and healthy. The roots however are soft, flaccid, collapsed and usually are easily pulled free from the rhizomes, leaving a small hole.



The top symptoms are essentially identical to the rhizome soft rot disease. The difference is that with soft rot disease the rhizomes are rotten whereas with scorch they appear normal and firm.

EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COOPERATING

W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR

E. W. JANIKE, ASSOC. DIRECTOR

CAUSE

Unknown.

CONTROL

Dig up the rhizomes and place them in a warm, dry location for the remainder of the summer. Replant them in the fall or early next spring. They will grow and appear perfectly normal but may not flower the first year since they have had a considerable reduction in food reserves because of the disease.



SYMPTOMS

The leaves of all or part of a clump of it begin to die back from the tips. This may occur anytime during the growing season but usually is more common in the spring. The leaves turn brown to black and wither. The rhizomes (the fleshy roots) appear perfectly normal and healthy. The roots however are soft, flaccid, collapsed over and easily pulled free from the rhizomes, leaving a small hole.

The top symptoms are essentially identical to the rhizome root rot disease. The difference is that with soft rot disease the rhizomes are rotten whereas with scorch they appear normal and firm.