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EC59-1823 Plant Diseases : Strawberry Leaf Disease

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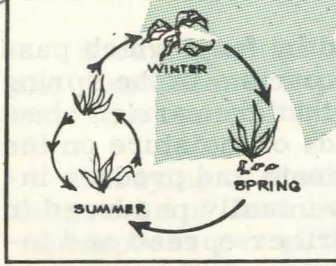
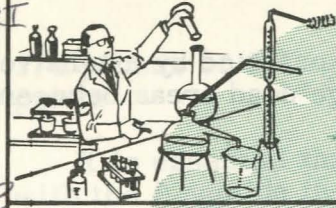
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PLANT DISEASES

P-471

JOHN L. WEIHING
Extension Plant Pathologist

Strawberry Leaf Disease



The most common strawberry disease in Nebraska is leaf spot. In very wet seasons leaf disease scorch also becomes destructive.

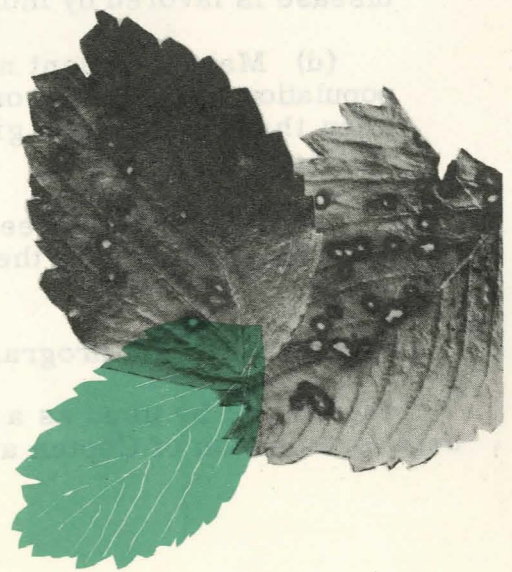
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SYMPTOMS

Strawberry leaf spot appears as small purplish or reddish spots on the leaves. The spots enlarge to about 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in diameter. They have an ashy gray center surrounded by a distinct reddish or purplish border. The spots are scattered over the surface of the leaves and sometimes are so numerous as to cause them to die. The disease seldom attacks the leaf stems, fruit stems, or caps. On the berries it causes a condition known as black seed.

Extension Service
University of Nebraska
College of Agriculture
and U. S. Department of
Agriculture Cooperating
W. V. Lambert, Director
E. W. Janike, Assoc. Director



Scorch disease is commonly manifested by extensive browning of the leaf edges and large dead areas between the leaf veins.

CAUSE

These two diseases are caused by fungi which pass the winter in the old infected plant parts. In the spring they produce spores (fungus seeds) that are carried about by air currents. Prolonged periods of moisture on the foliage causes the spores to germinate and produce infection. Numerous spores are eventually produced in the infection spots, resulting in further spread and intensity of the disease.

CONTROL

1. Various cultural measures can be taken which will usually control the disease so that spraying will be necessary only during years of excessive moisture and humidity.

(a) Plant in well-drained soils if possible.

(b) Avoid a heavily matted bed because the foliage of plants growing under crowded conditions dries slowly.

(c) Keep down the weeds and grass because the disease is favored by moist, shady conditions.

(d) Make frequent new plantings because the population of the disease organism gradually builds up when the berries are grown continuously in one location.

(e) Select plants free of leaf spot before transplanting or else strip the infected leaves from the plants.

2. Spray or dust program:

Captan can be used as a dust. Apply a 7 1/2 per cent formulation of Captan at a rate of approximately

3/4 pounds of dust per 1000 square feet of strawberry patch.

It is essential that the foliage is thoroughly covered with the fungicide in order to obtain good control.

Spraying or dusting should start with the first signs of the disease and should be reapplied at ten-day intervals until the end of July.

Spraying or dusting with Captan will prevent serious outbreaks of these two diseases. Use at the rate of 1 1/2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Add a teaspoonful of common household detergent such as Dreft, Tide, Vel, etc. to each gallon of solution as a wetting agent so that the material will wet the foliage thoroughly. If Captan cannot be obtained, a copper containing fungicide such as Bordeaux mixture may be used.

