

ALTERNARIA BRASSICICOLA, A PATHOGEN CAUSING LEAF DISEASES  
IN CRUCIFER VEGETABLES

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The fungus Alternaria brassicicola infects crucifers. The pathogenicity of an isolate of A. brassicicola from an imported seed sample was investigated with three crucifer crops, cabbage (Brassica oleracea var. capitata) cv. Green Boy, cauliflower (Brassica oleracea var. botrytis) cv. Phenomenal Early and knob-khol (Brassica oleracea var. gongyloides) cv. Early White Vienna.

Mature plants of the three species were sprayed with a spore suspension of A. brassicicola of density 1000 spores/ml approximately. In the post inoculation phase, plants were held under two types of conditions, under highly humid conditions in a humid chamber and under open atmospheric conditions. Leaf symptoms following infection developed within three days but only in plants held in the humid chamber. Symptoms became more pronounced quickly in all three species, dark specks on the youngest leaves and black spots on older leaves enlarging and spreading over the lamina in 5-6 days. The older leaves which were heavily infected collapsed within 7-8 days.

A. brassicicola may cause heavy damage to leafy vegetables as those used in this study. However, conditions of high humidity are essential for the activity of this pathogen.

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