



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Cucumber gummy stem blight (201)



Photo 1. Marginal rot of cucumber leaf caused by gummy stem blight, *Didymella bryoniae*, more advanced than in Photo 1.



Photo 2. Marginal rot with yellow margin caused by gummy stem blight, *Didymella bryoniae*, on cucumber.



Photo 3. Extensive loss of leaves on cucumber plants caused by gummy stem blight, *Didymella bryoniae*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On watermelon and other cucurbits. An important disease causing a leaf blight.
- Spots on leaves grow rapidly, leaves blacken shrivel and die. Spots on vine leak a gummy (sticky) liquid.
- Spores from black sacs in the spots spread in wind and rain. For cucumber (**see Fact Sheet no. 201**).
- Cultural control: nursery far from production area; sterilise soil; check seedlings before planting; do not plant new crops next to old; 3-year crop rotations; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: copper, mancozeb, or chlorothalonil every 7-10 days.

Common Name

Cucumner gummy stem blight, cucubit gummy stem blight, gummy stem blight of cucurbits. See also Watermelon gummy stem blight (**Fact Sheet no. 07**).

Scientific Name

Stagonosporopsis cucurbitacearum; (previously, *Didymella bryoniae*). Also known by the asexual state, *Phoma cucurbitacearum* or *Ascochyta cucumis*. The later is commonly found on plants in the field producing minute oval spores in round black structures in the leaf called "pycnidia" that are just visible to the naked eye.

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