

Cucumber gummy stem blight (201)

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

Cucumber gummy stem blight, cucurbit 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 latter 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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Information from CABI (2019) *Didymella bryoniae* (gummy stem blight of cucurbits). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/18900>); and from DAF (2016) Gummy stem blight. Queensland Government. (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/plants/fruit-vegetable/diseases-disorders/gummy-stem-blight>). Photo 2 Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org.

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Photo 1. Marginal rot with yellow margin caused by gummy stem blight, *Didymella bryoniae*, on cucumber.



Photo 2. Marginal rot of cucumber leaf caused by gummy stem blight, *Didymella bryoniae*, more advanced than in Photo 1.



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

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