

## Millet

### Phyllosticta Leaf Blight

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#### Identification and Life Cycle

Phyllosticta leaf blight of millet is caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta penicillariae*. Little is known about the conditions that favor disease development, but the pathogen is disseminated by air-borne spores and movement of infested crop debris. The pathogen survives between millet crops in and on infested crop debris and contaminated seed.

#### Plant Response and Damage

Phyllosticta leaf blight affected plants are stunted, yellow, and have numerous small lesions. These lesions have dark brown margins surrounding a light brown necrotic center. Individual lesions may coalesce, giving leaves a tattered appearance. Leaf margins are often necrotic. Small, dark fungal fruiting bodies (pycnidia) are apparent in diseased tissues. Yield loss estimates are not available for the High Plains.

#### Management Approaches

##### Biological Control

No biological control strategies have been developed for Phyllosticta leaf blight.

##### Cultural Control

Cultural control practices have not been developed for Phyllosticta leaf blight, but a three-year or longer crop rotation, incorporation of infested crop debris, and the planting of pathogen free-seed likely will reduce disease incidence and severity.

##### Chemical Control

Broad spectrum seed treatments should be used routinely.

*Product List for Phyllosticta Leaf Blight:*

<b>Pesticide</b>	<b>Rate per 100 lb seed</b>	<b>Application Frequency (days)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
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**Captan—various formulations available**

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Captan 75	6-9 oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum, but weak against <i>Pythium</i>
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**Fludioxonil**

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Maxim 4FS	0.034-0.068 fl oz	Seed treatment	Suppression of <i>Fusarium</i> and <i>Rhizoctonia</i> spp.
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**Thiram**

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42-S Thiram	8 fl oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum
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Thiram 50WP	8 oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum
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Categories: Millet, Disease, Phyllosticta Leaf Blight

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