

# BACTERIAL LEAF SPOT

*Pseudomonas syringae*



photo by: W. M. Dugbee

### Identification

- Bacterial leafspot is a fluorescent bacterium

### Detection

- Bacterial leafspot produces irregular-shaped to circular spots that are 3/16 to 1/4 inch in diameter
- The spots have dark green gray centers with very dark to almost black borders. This can be confused with Cercospora Leafspot that produces spots with light gray centers.
- In areas where spots from bacteria leaf spot grow together, portions of the leaf tend to tear, producing a ragged leaf

### Causes of Infection

- The bacteria must survive in the vegetative stage of growth on living plants, seed, or organic matter in the soil



- A wound or an injury on a susceptible plant, caused by insects or farming, is necessary for infection
- The optimum temperature for growth is 77° to 86° F, with a maximum of 95° F and a minimum of 36° F
- Requires high relative humidity for prolonged periods

### Damage

- Although bacterial leafspot is found in many production areas in the US, the disease rarely causes significant economic loss

### Control

- No field control strategies have been developed for bacterial leafspot
- Varieties differ in tolerance levels



photo by: C. Windel