



DISEASES OF COLOCASIA

COURSE-DFHCM
CREDIT HOUR-2+1

LEAF BLIGHT OR PHYTOPHTHORA BLIGHT OF COLOCASIA

Symptoms

- The first symptoms on taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) are small, dark brown flecks or light brown spots on the upper leaf surface .
- These early spots often occur at the tips and margins of leaves where water accumulates.
- The spots enlarge rapidly, becoming circular, zonate, and purplish brown to brown in color .
- On the lower leaf surface, spots have a water-soaked or dry gray appearance and hard globules of plant exudate are sometimes present .
- As spots increase in size they coalesce and quickly destroy the leaf .
- In dry weather or on some resistant cultivars, the centers of lesions become papery and fall out, producing a “shot-hole” appearance. Dead leaves often hang on their long petioles like flags .

Causal organism: *Phytophthora colocasiae*

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Disease cycle:

Primary infection: By Oospore/Zoospore present in soil.

Secondary infection: By water

Favourable condition:

Warm wet weather and waterlogging condition favourable for disease development.

Management

- Hot Water Disinfestations before showing.
- Isolate plantings (e.g., three small, separate patches instead of one large patch).
- Prepare the soil well and amend it before planting if calcium, magnesium, or phosphorus are needed.
- Add lime material before planting to raise soil pH to 6.0-6.8.
- Rotate taro with other crops.
- Incorporate compost and apply surface mulch.
- Rogue (kill and remove) diseased plants, taking them far from the planting area and destroying them by burying, burning (if allowed), or composting