

Plant Disease Notes

Angular Leaf Spot of Strawberries

ANR-932

Angular leaf spot, caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas fragariae*, is a common problem for Alabama strawberry growers.

Symptoms. The disease begins as small, water-soaked yellow lesions on the lower leaf surface. Spots become visible on the upper leaf surface as yellow flecks enlarge and turn reddish brown with age. Lesions enlarge to become angular spots, usually delimited by leaf veins. Water soaking and spotting also occurs on the calyx. Under moist conditions, lesions on the lower leaf surface may be covered with bacterial slime. When dry, the slime forms a whitish, scaly film. Infected leaves may die, and the calyxes on heavily infected plants dry up. The bacterium can infect all plant parts except the fruit and roots, but fruit tissue next to the calyx may become infected.

Persistence and Transmission.

The bacterium overwinters on infected dead leaves and spreads to

new plantings under high moisture conditions. The bacterium also spreads on infected transplants. Typically, plant to plant movement is through splashing water. Development of angular leaf spot is favored by moderate to cool daytime temperatures, low nighttime temperatures, high relative humidity, and long periods of wet weather.

Control. Angular leaf spot of strawberries can be controlled by the following strategies:

- Use clean planting stock and fumigate planting beds.
- Avoid repeated use of copper fungicides. They can be effective but may cause a phytotoxic reaction (foliar burn) when used repeatedly.
- Work healthy fields first to reduce spread of the disease.
- Do not work diseased areas when they are wet.
- Avoid overhead irrigation if possible.



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For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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