


OLIVE CERCOSPORA

<p>CAUSE Olive Cercospora is a widespread and serious fungal disease worldwide, yet not given the attention it deserves in South Africa, possibly because of being confused with symptoms of drought, waterlogging or nutrient deficiencies or other diseases. Olive Cercospora is caused by the organism <i>Pseudocercospora cladosporioides</i>.</p> <p>DAMAGE Reduced leaf function, leaf damage and leaf loss results in reduced yields in current and following season and eventual branch dieback.</p>	<p>SUSCEPTIBILITY Rainy or humid conditions are conducive to the spread of Cercospora, especially at temperatures above 20°C. Most commercial cultivars are highly susceptible with Maurino being the least susceptible of those grown in SA.</p>
<p>SYMPTOMS</p> <p><u>Leaves</u> Sooty grey blotches initially appear on lower surface of leaf. Irregular yellow chlorotic blotches form on the upper surface of the leaf. These yellow blotches increase in size, often along one side of the leaf resulting in the edge becoming necrotic (dying and drying out) and the entire leaf can become yellow and fall to the ground.</p> <p><u>Shoots / Branches</u> Defoliation. Die-back of branches.</p> <p><u>Fruit</u> Fruit can become infected, but this has not yet been observed locally</p>	
<p>PREVENTION Establish orchard in fields with low humidity and space trees to maximise aeration of canopies. Prune trees to provide adequate air circulation and exposure to sunlight. Balance plant nutrition by avoiding excess nitrogen. Spray suitable fungicides as a precautionary measure throughout growing season to protect newly formed leaves.</p>	<p>CONTROL</p> <p><u>Physical controls</u> Regular pruning of dense trees and removal of old exhausted bearing branches.</p> <p><u>Chemical controls (Active Ingredients)</u> Copper hydroxide Copper oxychloride Cuprous oxide Captab Dithiocarbamate/ Mancozeb</p> <p><u>Timing of sprays</u> Post-harvest to before flowering (alternatives to copper) After fruit set to 6 weeks before harvest (copper sprays)</p>

DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet should be used as a guideline. SA Olive accepts no responsibility for any damages resulting from incorrect management and control of olive diseases. Contact SA Olive for information on chemicals registered for olives in South Africa.

REFERENCES

Australian Olive Association, 2022.

Costa, C., 1998. Olive Production in South Africa. ARC-Infruitec, Stellenbosch (available for purchase from the SA Olive shop).