

Problem: Anthracnose of Cucurbits: *Colletorichum lagenarium*



Host Plants: Watermelon, cucumbers and muskmelons.

Description: Look for small black spots on the leaves or stems of young watermelon plants. Leafspots on muskmelon and cucumber start as yellowish or water-soaked areas that enlarge quickly, become brown and shatter, leaving a ragged hole. The lesions are often associated with the leaf veins.

Recommendations: To control anthracnose, start out with clean seed and/or transplants. The anthracnose fungus may over-winter in crop debris in the field. Don't replant watermelons in fields that were damaged by anthracnose last season. Place the current season's watermelon crop in fields in which no cucurbits have been grown for at least one year, preferably two or more years.

Remember to deep-plow the field after harvest to allow the vines to rapidly decompose (this reduces fungal inoculum). Unfortunately, none of the current watermelon cultivars have good resistance against anthracnose. Periodic fungicide applications may be necessary during wet weather in mid-summer. Apply chlorothalonil (Bonide Fungonil Concentrate, Daconil, Ortho Garden Disease Control, Fertilome Broad-Spectrum Landscape and Garden Fungicide, others) or mancozeb (Bonide Mancozeb Flowable).

References:

1. [Anthracnose of Cucurbits](#), Vegetable MD Online, Cornell University

Last Update: 1/9/2018

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