Grease spot of passion fruit

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PLANT DISEASES

GREASE SPOT OF PASSION FRUIT

By R. F. DOEPEL, B.Sc. (Agric.) Plant Pathologist

PROLONGED wet periods during the winter months favour serious development of the bacterial disease grease spot in passion vine plantations.

Routine sprays of Boarddeaux mixture, 8-8-100, at monthly intervals should be applied to protect the developing winter crop.

Outbreaks of the bacterial disease grease spot (causal organism Pseudomonas passiflora) on passion vines were recorded for the first time at Busselton, Keysbrook and Byford during the winter of 1960.

Symptoms

On the Fruit

The first signs of infection become evident as small, circular or irregular blotches which are dark green and water-soaked in appearance. Subsequently the blotches enlarge, become greasy and involve much of the fruit surface as illustrated. Finally the affected skin may turn brown and collapse inwards. Infected fruit are rendered worthless for market.

On the Runners

Light brown cankers develop on and girdle the runners causing withering of leaves and fruit beyond.

On the Leaves

Minute dark brown spots with light green halos or margins are present on infected leaves but may be overlooked unless a close examination is made of the vines.

Control Measures

Regular monthly sprays of Bordeaux mixture, 8-8-100, during the winter and early spring should give adequate control of grease spot.¹

The organic fungicides zineb and maneb, which are substitutes for Bordeaux mixture in the control of brown spot, are not considered very effective against grease spot and should not be used at that time of year.

Reference

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