

Strawberry Leaf Diseases Common to Manitoba



Strawberry fruit fungal diseases are not usually an issue during an average dry prairie summer. However, when precipitation events are excessive or frequent, leaf diseases can be of concern.

Plants and leaves are mostly susceptible early in the growing season and in late summer, especially where growth is very succulent. Some cultivars, like Kent, are more susceptible to leaf diseases than more recently released cultivars.

Risk of strawberry leaf and fruit diseases is reduced with renovation and removal of older leaf tops from the field. Tops are an inoculum source that may reinfest foliage the following year under suitable conditions.

Symptoms



Common Leaf Spot

- Fungus *Mycosphaerella fragariae*
- Initially 3-6 mm purple spots
- White centres, later purple borders
- Kent cultivar susceptible



Angular Leaf Spot

- Bacteria *Xanthomonas fragariae*
- Angular spots (not rounded)
- Lesions appear as “windows” when lit from behind
- Unique in that its a bacterial infection not fungal
- Kent cultivar susceptible



Leaf Scorch

- Fungus *Diplocarpon earliana*
- Irregular purple brown-blotches
- Tissues around lesions turn purple to bright red
- Kent cultivar susceptible



Leaf Blight

- Fungus *Phomopsis obscurans*
- Initially circular reddish-purple spots
- Older spots coalesce into larger v-shaped lesions
- Rare

Cultural Controls

- Plant less susceptible cultivars.
- Remove old and infected leaves at renovation.
- Allow for good air flow across the field with sufficient spacing between rows.
- Avoid applying excess nitrogen fertilizer which can result in excess growth and dense canopies.
- Use drip-irrigation systems to reduce water on leaves and spread of fungal spores.

Chemical Controls

Timely fungicide sprays are an effective method of control. Many of the fungicides that control fruit rot are also effective for some leaf diseases. See [Ontario Crop Protection Hub](#) for registered control products based on the leaf disease present. Confirm on the label that products registered for use in Manitoba (i.e. not restricted for use in eastern Canada or BC only).

References

[Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Strawberry Production \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)

Image Sources:

Angular Leaf Spot: D.E. Legard, University of Florida; Leaf Blight: D.E. Legard, University of Florida
Common Leaf Spot: Manitoba Agriculture