

Cultural characteristics of *Cercospora beticola* sacc. causing leaf spot of palak

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ABSTRACT

Palak (*Beta vulgaris* var. *bengalensis* Hort.) is one of the most popular leafy vegetables widely grown in India. This crop is severely affected by leaf spot disease caused by *Cercospora beticola* leading to brown coloured spots on the leaves which hinders the market quality of the leaves. All media are not equally good for all fungi, nor there is a universal substrate or artificial medium, upon which all fungi can grow. So, different media including both synthetic and non-synthetic were tried for *C. beticola* in the present experiment. Cultural studies of *C. beticola* grown on different solid media showed that Potato dextrose agar and Oat meal agar were good for growth. Among the nine liquid media evaluated, maximum dry mycelial weight of the fungus was obtained in Soypeptone broth which was significantly superior to all other media. Temperature requirement of the fungus was found 25°C where good growth was observed.

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