



Ascochyta blight on pea

Ascochyta pisi Ascochyta blight and pod spot

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Blight of pea (Courtesy of The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), Crown Copyright)</p>  <p>Pea Ascochyta blight (Guo Shupu, II-AAAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use certified clean seed • Plant a resistant cultivar if available • Plant crop as early as possible to increase yield potential • Plant pea seeds about 5 cm deep and when the average temperature is 15-20°C. Optimal planting conditions will increase germination rates and general vigour, making the plants less susceptible to infection • Do not plant crop downwind of an infected field, or adjacent to one, since the disease can be spread by wind and water (splashing) • Rotate with crops other than beans and peas (legumes) for at least three years since <i>Ascochyta</i> can remain in the soil for this long • Carry out straw chopping during combining or harrowing. This will help speed up the decomposition of the residues on which <i>Ascochyta</i> can live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional relevant crops: soybean, sweet pea, lentil, alfalfa, common beans, clover, black-eyed pea, broad bean • Scout for symptoms during vegetative stage and throughout flowering • Look for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purplish brown spots or lesions varying in size on stems, tendrils and pods. Lesions are sunken, enlarge and gradually join together, causing blighting and weakened stems • Brown pin-head sized dots within the lesions • Seeds: smaller yield, discoloured, shrunken • Consider control options as soon as symptoms are noticed. If symptoms do not move up past the lower two thirds of the plant canopy then crop losses may not be that large • Monitor crop particularly closely when temperature is around 20°C and humidity is high for a prolonged period - these are optimal conditions for <i>Ascochyta</i> development • Symptoms can be similar to those caused by <i>Ascochyta pinodes</i> and <i>A. pinodella</i>. However, <i>A. pisi</i> does not usually attack the base of the plant or cause foot rot like <i>A. pinodes</i> and <i>A. pinodella</i> does 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury infested crop residue with cultivation

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.