




Ascochyta blight on beans

Didymella fabae (teleomorph) *Ascochyta fabae* (anamorph) Leaf and pod spot

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Ascochyta leaf and pod spot on <i>Vicia faba</i>. (Source: PGRO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use certified clean seed • Plant a resistant cultivar if available • If using farm-saved seed then use the cleanest seed possible - use seed with 5 % to nil levels of ascochyta present. Do not use old, frosted or damaged seed (with low vigour). • If crop has been infected, do not plant any legumes in the field for four years to prevent reinfection • Before sowing seeds, remove all sources of inoculum such as weeds and volunteer plants • Thoroughly cultivate the land following a bean crop harvest. Crop debris left on the soil surface can be a source of inoculum. • Do not plant crop downwind of an infected field, or adjacent to one, since the disease can be spread by wind and water (splashing) • Intercrop beans with cereals such as maize or wheat to create barrier to prevent the aerial spread of the disease • Separate this year's bean crop from last year's bean stubble by a distance of 500 m. • Do not sow seed adjacent to vetch, chickpea or lentil stubble • Sow at a time when conditions are not expected to be cool and wet for a long period. These conditions favour disease development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant crops: broad beans (<i>Vicia faba</i>), vetch, chickpea, lentil • Lesions on leaves, stems and pods. • Lesions may be more apparent on upper parts of stem and on older leaves if seedlings have grown from infected seed • Leaves: Lesions are usually circular, dark brown, initially about 1 mm in diameter. Eventually the lesions join together to become larger and more irregular in shape. They are sunken with a pale brown to dark grey centre surrounded by a broad, dark, chocolate-covered margin. Within the lesions, pinhead-sized black spots may develop under damp conditions • Leaves: Browning of the vascular issue of the leaf may occur • Stems: Small lesions at the early stages of infection which gradually elongate up the stem and become sunken. Lesions are usually darker than those on leaves. They can cause the plants to lodge or a kink in the stem. • Whole plant: seedling death if seedling grows from infected seed • Pods: Lesions may appear on the surface. These are very deep with pale centres and dark brown margins. Pin-head sized black spots may appear within lesions. • Seeds: Shrunken and discoloured. Yellowish brown stains on outer seed coat if badly infected • Lesions can look similar to those caused by chocolate spot (<i>Botrytis fabae</i>). However <i>B. faba</i> lesions do not contain pin-head sized black spots (pycnidia). Sometimes both ascochyta blight AND chocolate spot are present on the plant. Lab analysis may be required to identify the disease. • Take controls actions as soon as symptoms are seen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a combination of methods is the best way to control Ascochyta. • Harvest as early as possible to minimize discolouration of seed caused by ascochyta infection
 <p>Leaf lesions (Source: PGRO)</p>			
 <p>Leaf lesion showing fungal fruiting bodies (Source: PGRO)</p>			

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.