

Ring spot

Introduction

Ring spot is a common disease that occurs in all sugarcane growing regions of the world. The disease usually only affects older leaves and as a consequence has no economic impact on crop yields.

Causal agent

Ring spot is caused by the fungus *Leptosphaeria sacchari*. The fungus requires warm humid conditions to multiply which coincides with the summer months from December through to March. Spores are spread through rain or wind.

Symptoms

The young infections first appear as minute bronze brown flecks which enlarge to become elongated flecks with yellow edges. As the infection progresses, lesions become elongated and oval-shaped varying from 1-5 mm to 4-18 mm in length. The characteristic feature of the ring spot lesion is the straw coloured centre with a well-defined red-brown margin. This is a common disease seen on most varieties across all regions and is found mainly on the lower canopy of the plant.

Yield Loss

Ring spot has no economic effect on the crop but is one of the most common diseases found.

Management

No management controls required.

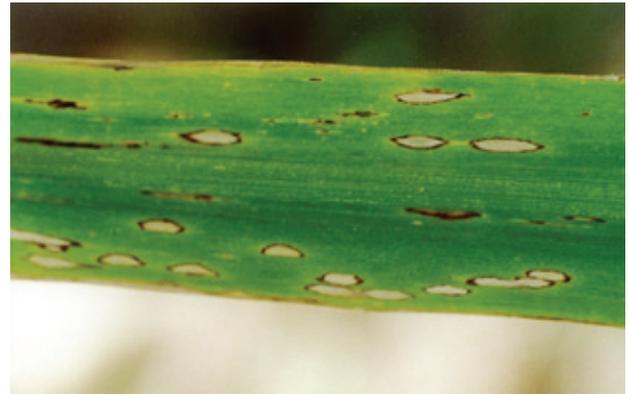


Image 1: Young and progressive Ring spot lesion.



Image 2: Advanced case of Ring Spot.