

PLPA-WM001-2008

WATERMELON TRANSPLANT DISEASES: GUMMY STEM BLIGHT

Gummy stem blight is a seedborne disease caused by the fungus, *Didymella bryoniae*. A few contaminated seeds can lead to widespread contamination in transplant facilities that use overhead watering.



Fig.1. Symptom development following splashing of spores onto nearby foliage.

The symptoms on leaves will first appear in an area of plants surrounding an infected seedling. The fungus will quickly reproduce, producing small, black, raised specks that will produce spores. Splashing water will spread these spores.



Fig. 2. Detail of symptoms on upper side of leaf.



Fig. 3. Variations in symptoms on lower stem. Note black specks that are spore-producing structures (pycnidia) in top and bottom photos. Note water soaking in top and middle photos. Water soaking of lower stem is followed by the appearance of pycnidia.



Fig. 5. Cotyledon showing black specks that are spore-producing structures (pycnidia).

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April, 2008; April, 2015 revision

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