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Black Rot of Ornamental Cabbage and Kale (update)

Watch for black rot on your ornamental cabbage and kale crops - look for wedge-shaped lesions and blackened veins.



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In my previous e-Gro Alert (sent on August 6, <http://e-gro.org/pdf/346.pdf>), I discussed black rot on cabbage, a bacterial disease caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*. I focused on cabbage because this disease was historically more often a serious problem on cabbage - I hope by doing this I did not imply that the disease would not occur, or would not often occur, on kale.

In the past couple of weeks we've encountered numerous reports of black rot on ornamental kale as well as on field-grown kale on vegetable farms in the northeast. Look at all of your kale and cabbage plantings carefully! Look for V-shaped or wedge-shaped lesions, typically with



Symptoms of black rot on Redbor kale.

e-GRO Alert

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a yellow or chlorotic border. You will often see blackened veins near the lesions, however this symptom might be more difficult to see on varieties with red or purple leaves. Seek assistance with diagnosis from a diagnostic lab or your local extension specialist.

It is best to quickly discard infected plants to help reduce the amount of inoculum present in the

field. Treating the remaining plants with a labeled product can help protect them from infection. Always remember to practice good sanitation (in particular, make sure not to handle infected plants prior to healthy plants).

Please refer to my previous e-Gro Alert, <http://e-gro.org/pdf/346.pdf>, for additional information on this disease.



Symptoms of black rot on kale.

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