

Eye Spot Disease

Eye Spot Disease on Sugarcane



This is one of the important foliar diseases of sugarcane. The severity of the disease depends up on the environmental conditions such as high relative humidity, cloudiness and heavy dews. The disease appears to be more rapidly on following heavy application of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Causal organism: *Bipolaris sacchari*

Symptomatology

- Typical mature eye spot symptoms are characterized by reddish – brown elliptical lesion (0.5 to 0.4 mm long, 0.5 to 2 mm wide) with yellowish – brown margins. Reddish brown to yellowish brown runners extend upward from individual lesions towards the leaf apex. Where multiple infections occur, the entire leaf can become necrotic due to the combine effect spot and runner formation. The observable eye spot symptoms are minute, water soaked spots that occur on younger leaves. The spots become more elongated, resembling the shape of the eye and turns almost straw colored in a few days. Finally, the central portion of the spots becomes reddish brown surrounded by straw colored tissue. The spots and runners coalesce together to form large parches of reddish brown withered tissues. Occasionally the pathogen also attacks the spindle and from there it moves down the terminal portion of the stalk causing top rot. This is known as the acute form of the disease.



Transmission

Wind

Control

Adopting following measures can minimize the disease incidence.

- Foliar application 0.2% copper oxychloride or 0.3% Mancozeb with 2 to 3 sprayings at an interval of 10 to 15 days. Spraying is to be done as per the severity of the disease.