

PLANT PATHOLOGY NOTE: NO. 23

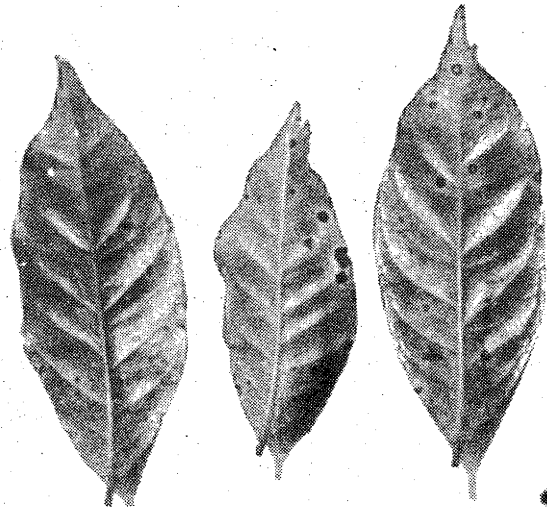
BROWN EYE SPOT DISEASE OF COFFEE

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INTRODUCTION

Brown eye spot disease of coffee is caused by a fungus *Cercospora coffeicola*. It can be a serious problem in seed beds and nurseries, especially when the young coffee plants do not have enough shade. The disease causes leaves to fall off, and plants become too weak for transplanting into the field. Sometimes plants die after the leaves have dropped off.

On crop-bearing plants, *C. coffeicola* affects the berries as well as the leaves. Where the berries are affected, the disease is known as berry blotch. Die-back of crop-bearing branches occurs when affected leaves fall off.



Brown eye spot disease of coffee - the symptoms are round spots of dead tissue on the leaves

SYMPTOMS

On leaves

On leaves the disease appears as round spots of dead tissue, brown round the edges and greyish white in the middle. The fungus produces spores on the spots, then the spots collapse to leave holes. The leaves eventually turn yellow and fall off.

On berries

On berries the disease shows up as dark brown, sunken spots of dead tissue, on green berries

which are exposed to the sun. The skin around the spot turns purple. The skin of the whole berry may dry up and stick to the bean inside. This dried skin will not come off during pulping.

Both arabica and robusta coffees are susceptible to brown eye spot disease. The disease is spread by windblown spores.

CONTROL

In order to avoid damage by brown eye spot disease, you should take good care of your young coffee plants in the nur-

sery. If leaves are exposed to sun, they are much more likely to be affected by the fungus. Therefore it is important to grow your coffee plants under proper shade.

Young plants can be protected from the disease by spraying with fungicides. Effective fungicides are:

- . Benlate 0.1%
- . Captan or Dithane 0.4%
- . Copper oxychloride 1.0%

For mature or crop bearing plants, careful management of shade, keeping plants healthy through balanced nutrition and avoiding over-bearing of the crop, will help to reduce the disease on leaves and berries. Spraying with copper oxychloride has been found to give useful protection.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from:

The Chief Plant Pathologist,
D.P.I.,
P.O. Box 417, Konedobu.

Copies of this Plant Pathology Note, and of others in the series are available from the Publications Officer, Publications Section, D.P.I., P.O. Box 417, Konedobu.