

TAN LEAF SPOT OF RHOEO DISCOLOR

J. W. Miller

The oyster plant, *Rhoeo discolor* Hance, is low-growing with a fleshy rosette of stiff, waxy, lance-shaped leaves, which have metallic dark green upper surfaces and glossy purple lower surfaces (1). It is a native of Mexico and is grown in Florida primarily as a ground cover.

A serious leaf-spotting problem of this plant became evident in 1968 and 1969. The disease is caused by the fungus *Curvularia eragrostidis* (P. Henn.) J. A. Meyer (*C. maculans* (Bancroft) Boedjin), which is also a pathogen of corn (3) and alyce clover (4). To date, presence of the disease has been established in Alachua, Brevard, Dade, Hillsborough, Seminole, and Volusia counties (2).

SYMPTOMS. Lesions begin as small, green, sunken areas, predominantly on the lower leaf surface (Fig. 1A). The spots enlarge and become tan in color (Fig. 1B). At this stage, sporulation of the fungus usually occurs. Two or more lesions may coalesce to form large, irregular, tan spots, resulting in some leaf distortion (2).

CONTROL. Benlate (50 WP) at 1 lb per 100 gal water, premixed maneb plus zinc (80 WP 4-2% zinc) at 1% lb per 100 gal water, or Daconil (75 WP) at 1% lb per 100 gal water gave good disease control in experimental trials (2).

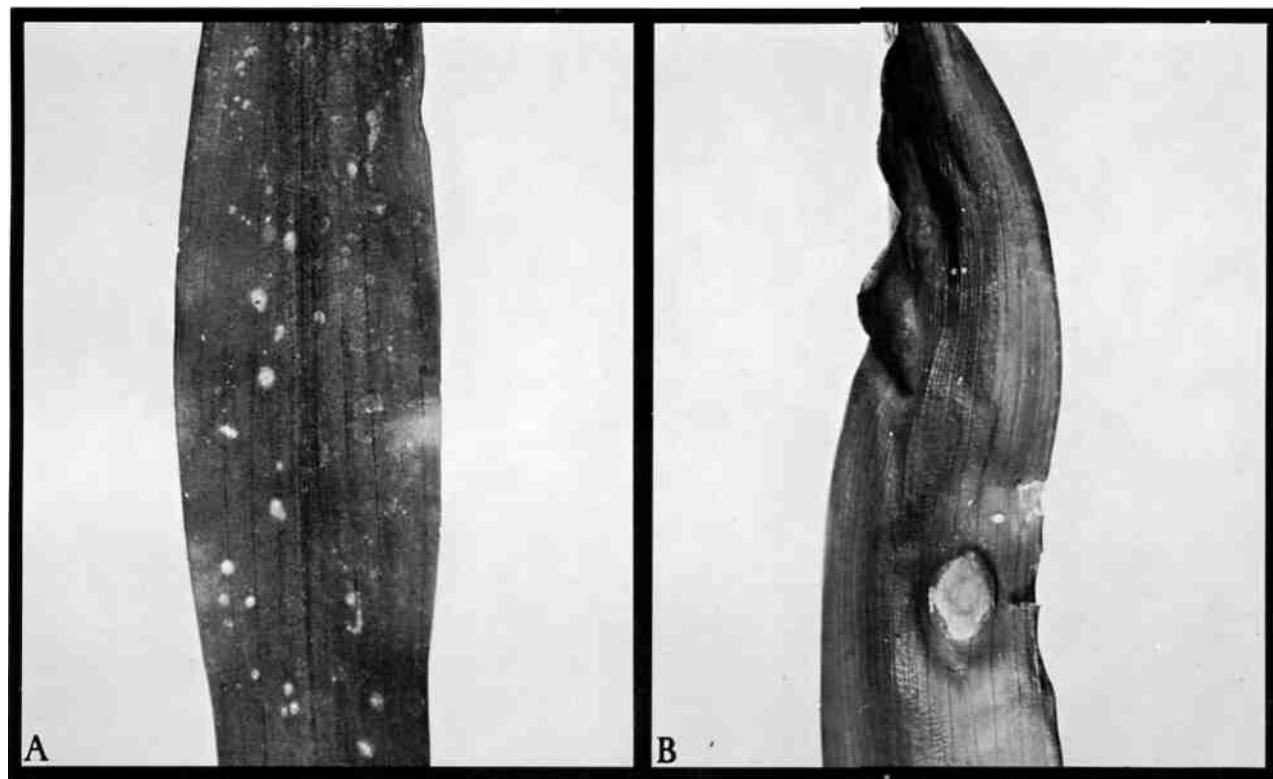


Fig. 1. Tan leaf spot of *Rhoeo discolor* caused by *Curvularia eragrostidis*: A) young, sunken, light green leaf spots; B) older, large, tan leaf spot on distorted leaf.

Literature Cited

1. Graf, A. B. 1959. Exotica II. Roehrs Co., Rutherford, N. J. 1146 p.
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3. Nelson, R. R. 1956. A new disease of corn caused by Curvularia maculans. Plant Dis. Repr. 40:210-211.
4. Ostazeski, S. A. 1959. A Curvularia leaf spot of Alyce clover. Plant Dis. Repr. 43:350-351.