

Plant Pathology Factsheet

BROWN SPOT OF SOYBEAN

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Scattered showers and rain favor development of a disease of soybean known as brown spot, caused by the fungus *Septoria glycines*. The fungus survives from season to season in crop debris and seed. Symptoms of brown spot include small, dark brown, angular spots ranging in size from minute specks to 1/4 inch in diameter (Figure 1). Spots occur most prominently on unifoliolate leaves of young plants (Figure 2) or late in the season during latter pod fill and maturation stages. Infected leaves gradually turn yellow and drop off the plant.

Generally, no control is needed or recommended when brown spot develops early in the growing season; infected plants will recover with no permanent damage. However, when the environment is favorable for disease development late in the season, brown spot can re-appear and cause serious yield losses. In those instances, fungicides may be applied in the early stages of disease development (i.e. beginning pod set) to prevent premature defoliation and protect crop yield.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.