

Pepper Disease Management Timeline for Indiana

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Use this timeline to determine the appropriate disease management measures for pepper diseases common to Indiana.

Disease/Disorder	Winter/Off-season	Greenhouse	Planting	Fruit Set	Harvest
anthracnose	Rotate crops at least 2 years and practice fall tillage. Purchase seed that has been tested for anthracnose.	Inspect seedlings for symptoms.	Do not plant seedlings with symptoms.	Apply fungicides as necessary.	Inspect fruit for symptoms.
bacterial spot	Rotate crops at least 2-3 years and practice fall tillage. Resistance to races 1 to 5 of the pathogen is available in many pepper cultivars. Purchase seed that has been tested for bacterial spot.	Inspect seedlings for symptoms and apply fixed copper compounds as needed.	Do not plant seedlings with symptoms of bacterial spot. Begin fixed copper applications on a 7-14-day schedule. More frequent copper applications may help manage copper-resistant strains.		Inspect fruit for bacterial spot symptoms.
blossom-end rot	Conduct preseason soil tests for calcium and consider adding calcium and lime amendments.		Maintain regular irrigation schedule. Choose less susceptible varieties. Calcium nitrate through the drip may help reduce symptoms in future fruit sets. Foliar calcium application is not recommended.		Inspect fruit for symptoms.
Phytophthora blight	Rotate crops at least 3 years and practice fall tillage. Select fields without a history of the disease. Plant on raised beds and avoid standing water in fields. Irrigation water may be contaminated with Phytophthora.		Apply fungicides as needed. Note that many fungicides that are effective against Phytophthora blight are not effective for most other common pepper diseases. Best results will be obtained with applications made before disease is observed.		Inspect fruit for symptoms.
virus diseases	Crop rotation and fall tillage will have little influence on virus diseases.	Choose varieties resistant to virus diseases such as Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV). Good greenhouse and field sanitation is critical for TMV which may be transmitted mechanically. Reflective mulches may reduce severity of PVY.			

More information about disease management is available in the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers*, mwveguide.org. Keep current during the season about diseases and more with the Vegetable Crops Hotline, vegcropshotline.org.

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May 2013

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