

Know the Difference: Botrytis Leaf Blight Halo Lesions vs BLB Necrotic Spots



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Through recent on-farm fungicide trials, we've determined that not all Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) lesions are controlled equally. **There are two kinds of BLB lesions: BLB halo lesions and BLB necrotic spots** and your best fungicide options for control of Botrytis leaf blight depends on *what kind of spot you got!*

BLB Halo Lesions

When BLB first occurs in June and early July, the lesions appear as a tiny yellow necrotic spot surrounded by a silvery halo. It is also common for the necrotic spot to be absent leaving just a silvery spot (Fig. 1). When BLB halo lesions get old, the center becomes sunken and often splits; it is still yellowish in color and remnants of the silvery halo can usually still be seen (Fig. 2).

See [Scouting Onions for Botrytis Leaf Blight Halo Lesions](#) for more more information and photos.

BLB Necrotic Spots

During the second half of July, BLB lesions often do not have the silvery halo. Instead, they are yellow spots, sometimes yellowish-white spots as they get bigger, with a round defined border, that are pin-prick to 1 mm or slightly larger in size (= BLB necrotic spots) (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). By August, BLB necrotic spots are often dominant, while BLB halo lesions decline, especially in Elba muck. BLB halo lesions tend to linger for the duration of the season in Wayne and Oswego muck-onion growing regions, although both do occur.

BLB necrotic spots are not to be confused with old BLB halo lesions where the initial necrotic spot becomes sunken and often split (Fig. 2). BLB necrotic spots could also be confused with contact herbicide injury.

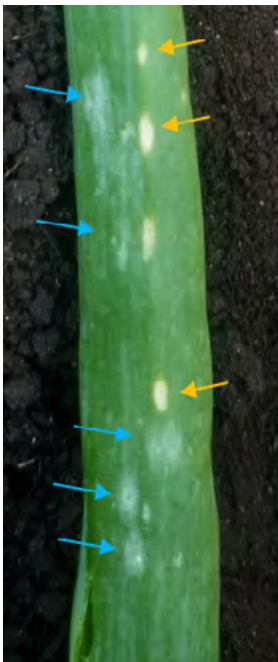


Figure 1. Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) "halo" lesions (blue arrows) and "necrotic" spots (yellow arrows) on onion. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program



Figure 2. Old BLB halo lesions with sunken centers and halos still visible around many of them. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program



Figure 3. BLB necrotic spots, ranging in size from pin-prick to 1 mm. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Fungicide recommendations typically change each year based on current research findings and registered products. Contact Christy Hoepting at 585-721-6953 or cah59@cornell.edu for more information.