

**OCCURRENCE OF BROWN SPOT AND STEM CANKER
ON SUNFLOWER CAUSED BY *Phomopsis helianthi* IN IRAN¹**

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SUMMARY

The brown spot and stem canker disease has first been observed during 1986 on various cultivars of sunflower, particularly the hybrid CMS 26 × R—28 in Mazandaran Province. The pathogen extracted is *Phomopsis helianthi*

This disease is not economically important in sunflower plantations of Iran but it will probably threaten them seriously in future.

The symptoms may change in different climatic conditions but the brown spots and canker on stems are the symptoms existing in all conditions, causing the plants, in advanced phases to dry and die.

The importance of disease, distribution area, symptoms in detail, biology of the fungus and control methods have been discussed.

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The brown spot and stem canker disease has first been reported during 1980 on various cultivars of sunflower, particularly the hybrid GMS 20, in Mazandaran Province. The pathogen concerned is *Phomopsis helianthi*.

This disease is not economically important in sunflower plantations of Iran but it will probably threaten them seriously in future. The symptoms may change in different climatic conditions but the brown spot and canker on stem are the symptoms existing in all conditions among the plants in advanced phase to dry and die. The importance of disease, distribution area, symptoms in detail, biology of the fungus and control methods have been discussed.

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