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OCCURRENCE OF FUSARIUM WILT OF WATERMELON
IN GUILAN PROVINCE OF IRAN (1)

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SUMMARY

The wilt disease of watermelon incited by Fusarium oxysporum Sch.f.sp. niveum (E.F.S.) SNYDER & HANSEN was first reported by BANIHASHEMI IN 1969 in Ramsar and Lahidjan. We have later observed the disease in 1972 in Bandar-e-Anzali and in 1978 in Lasht-e-Nesha and Rezvanshahr.

Disease symptoms include wilting starting from the tip and extending downward followed by death of the plants.

The pathogen produces sporodochia and pinnotes on PDA. Microconidia are 2.5-4 x 6-13 micron and macroconidia 3-5 x 25-35 usually with three septate, sickle-shaped with distinct foot cell. Chlamydospores are intercalary or terminal.

20 to 30 day-old seedlings of watermelon inoculated with the pathogen produced disease symptoms. Watermelon cultivar Charleston Gray was found to be more resistant to the pathogen than other cultivars. (See table 1 in Farsi text).

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