

## Forage legumes / Legumineuses fourragères

**CROP:** Alfalfa

**LOCATION:** Southern Alberta

**NAME AND AGENCY:**

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**TITLE: SURVEY OF VERTICILLIUM WILT OF ALFALFA IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA IN 1993**

**METHODS:** Ten irrigated alfalfa fields in the municipal districts of Pincher Creek and Taber and the counties of Lethbridge and Forty Mile, Alberta were surveyed for verticillium wilt (*Verticillium albo-atrum*) in late August 1993. Alfalfa was surveyed by entering each field at a corner, walking 200 paces toward the middle of the field, and exiting the field perpendicular to one side of the field (Huang *et al*, 1988). Diseased plants were identified by generalized wilting, inward curling of leaves, and the presence of V-shaped lesions on leaf tips. Severity of disease was then visually estimated according to the following scale: 1, none (0% of plants infected); 2, trace (<1%); 3, light (1-10%); 4, moderate (11-25%); 5, severe (26-50%); and 6, very severe (>50%).

**RESULTS:** Verticillium wilt was found in seven of the ten alfalfa fields surveyed in southern Alberta (Table 1). Of the seven diseased fields, the incidence was light in four fields and was moderately severe in three fields. The disease was found in all the areas surveyed, from Pincher Creek to Bow Island.

Table 1. Verticillium wilt of alfalfa in southern Alberta in 1993.

SEVERITY	INCIDENCE (%)	NO. OF FIELDS
None	0	3
Trace	<1	0
Light	1-10	4
Moderate	11-25	3
Severe	26-50	0
Very Severe	>50	0

**REFERENCES**

- Huang, H.C., L.M. Phillippe, R.J. Howard and E.R. Moskaluk. 1988. Survey of verticillium wilt of alfalfa in Southern Alberta. *Can. Plant Dis. Survey* 68:63-64.