**Bacterial spot** is becoming an increasingly devastating disease of tomato in the Mid-Atlantic region. Not only can the pathogen directly damage the fruit, severe foliar infection can lead to defoliation, reducing both the quality and quantity of marketable fruit. This may be due in part to the increasing frequency of severe weather events that favor disease development as well as shorter rotations between tomatoes due to the economic value of the crop.

Foliar lesions are initially small, dark brown or black, and circular and may be surrounded by a yellow halo. As the lesions expand, they coalesce and portions of the leaf or the entire leaf will turn yellow and die. Lesions on the pedicels can cause flower abortion. Lesions will develop on immature fruit as a result of infection of the fruit hairs. The fruit lesions are initially small, dark brown, and raised. As the fruit ages, the lesions will increase in diameter and have a scabby or corky appearance.

Young bacterial spot foliar lesions can be difficult to distinguish from those of early blight or Septoria leaf spot; however, as the lesions expand, early blight lesions will develop concentric rings while lesions from Septoria leaf spot will become tan in the center with small black dots called pycnidia. Early blight fruit lesions will develop similar concentric rings as on the leaves while Septoria leaf spot will not cause fruit symptoms.

The primary sources of bacterial inoculum are infected seed, infected crop debris, and contaminated equipment (tools, greenhouse structures, stakes, etc.). The bacteria are splash dispersed through overhead irrigation and during wind-driven rain events. They enter the plant through both natural openings and wounds caused by severe weather, insect, or mechanical damage. The optimum temperature for infection is between

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