



INCIDENCE OF FUNGAL DISEASES OF TOMATO IN SEED PRODUCING FIELDS

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ABSTRACT

The article presents research results conducted on the study of the spread and development of fungal diseases in tomato fields for seed production in the condition of Tashkent region.

KEYWORDS: *disease, fungi, alternaria, septoria, phytophthora, fusarium, seed, powdery mildew, gray mold.*

INTRODUCTION

The most reliable guarantee of high yields from vegetable crops is healthy and best quality seeds. Seed quality is affected by a number of factors, among which are primarily diseases caused by fungi.

The occurrence of fungal diseases in agricultural crops in the fields to produce seeds and their development in these fields negatively affect not only the yield of seeds, but also their quality. Seeds collected from infected plants are too small in size, shrivelled and have a very low germination capacity. The most dangerous aspect of this case is that seeds harvested from diseased plants are a source of infection, and when they are used for planting it can lead to the emergence and spread of the diseases in new fields. Seedlings germinated from such seeds are weak and stunted, slow in growth and development. They are susceptible to the

stresses of the external environment, especially to pests and diseases.

Tomato is one of the most widely grown vegetable crops in our republic. Tomato seeds produced in the country do not meet the needs of the vegetable growing industry. The main reason for this is that there are not enough seed producing farms to produce not only tomato seeds but also other vegetable crops, and the seed production in these existing farms does not meet the selection requirements. It is important to study the spread and development of diseases and identify their pathogens in the development of controlling measures for tomato diseases [1, 3, 4, 6].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to study and solve the above problems, research work was carried out in 2017-2020 on the identification of the incidence and development of



fungal diseases of tomatoes in the fields for seed production on the farms in Tashkent region. For this purpose, the pathogens and development of diseases in these farms were identified and phytopathological and mycological analysis of the samples of infected tomato plants and their seeds collected from the disease spread fields was performed in the laboratory of the Department of Agrobiotechnology of Tashkent State Agrarian University.

Incidence of fungal diseases of tomato plant has been calculated according to this formulae:

$$P = \frac{100 \times n}{N},$$

here,

P- disease incidence, %;

N- total number of surveyed plants;

n- number of plants with disease symptoms [2].

Severity of diseases in tomato plant has been determined on the base of a 5-score scale method [2].

Here:

score **Percentage (%)**

- 0 – 0 healthy plant;
- 1 – 10% infected plant;
- 2 – 11-25% infected plant;
- 3 – 26-50% infected plant;
- 4 – over 50% infected plant.

For the calculation of the expression with scores of the development level of tomato diseases in the percentage, the following formulae has been used:

$$R = \frac{(\sum a \times b)}{N \times k},$$

Here,

R – Severity of the disease, %;

∑a·b- the sum of multiplication of the number of infected plants (**a**) with respective scores (**b**);

N- total number of surveyed plants (healthy and infected);

K- number of scores in the scale [2].

A moisture chamber method was used to isolate pure cultures of fungi from diseased tomato plants and seeds. To do this, filter paper was placed on the bottom of a Petri dish, and sterilized in an autoclave for 30 minutes at a temperature of 121°C under 1 atmosphere pressure, and a moisture chamber was prepared. The parts and seeds of the tomato plant to be inspected were cleaned of microorganisms by sterilizing their outer parts. For sterilization, the plant part was immersed in 1% sodium hypochlorite solution for 0,5-1 min, then washed 3-4 times with sterilized water. The filter papers on the Petri plates were then moistened with sterilized water in front of the alcohol lamp flame and the plant was cut into 1-3 cm pieces using a scalpel heated in the flame and were placed by 4-6 pieces on each plate. Petri

dishes with plant parts were placed in thermostats with a temperature of 24-26°C. From the third day, Petri dishes were observed and fungal mycelia or spores formed on the surface of the plant parts were inoculated into the oblique wort agar medium in the test tube. After the fungi in the test tube had grown well, its type was identified [5].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study identified six diseases caused by fungi in open fields of tomato. These are Alternaria, Botrytis, Septoria, Powdery mildew, Phytophthora, and Fusarium wilt (Table 1).

The spread and development of this disease occurred differently in the fields of Tashkent region. Fusarium and Alternaria diseases were mostly recorded than the remaining diseases, their spread constituted 42,8-55,3% and 32,8-46,7% and the development was 23,7-31,6% and 19,3-26,4% respectively. Powdery mildew disease of tomato plant was observed only for one year. It was firstly found in 2018 on the farm “Yahyo hoji” in Parkent district and its incidence made 1,4% while the development was found to be 0,8%.



Table-1
The Spread of Fungal Diseases of Tomato in the Fields of Tashkent Region

№	Tomato diseases	Disease agent	Incidence and severity of diseases over the years								
			In 2017			In 2018			In 2019		
			Spread of disease, %	Severity of disease, %	Disease index, %	Spread of disease, %	Severity of disease, %	Disease index, %	Spread of disease, %	Severity of disease, %	Disease index, %
1.	Alternaria	<i>Alternaria solani</i> (Ell. et Mart.) Sorauer	32,8	19,3	6,3	46,7	26,4	12,3	39,4	22,8	9,0
2.	Botrytis or gray rot	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i> Pers.	17,7	10,1	1,8	7,6	4,5	0,3	12,6	7,3	0,9
3.	Septoria or white spot	<i>Septoria lycopersici</i> Speg.	5,3	1,9	0,1	13,2	4,0	0,5	8,2	2,1	0,2
4.	Powdery mildew	<i>Erysiphe communis</i> Grex. or <i>Oidium lycopersicum</i> Cooke et Mass.	-	-	-	1,4	0,8	0,01	-	-	-
5.	Phytophthora	<i>Phytophthora infestans</i> De Bary	14,1	6,5	0,9	4,9	2,9	0,1	7,8	3,5	0,3
6.	Fusarium	<i>Fusarium oxysporum f. lycopersici</i> (Sacc.) Snyder et Hans.	42,8	23,7	10,1	55,3	31,6	17,5	49,1	28,4	13,9



The diseases botrytis and phytophthora stopped developing in the infected organs of tomatoes with an increase in air temperature and a decrease in air humidity. When they were observed, their spread rate made 7,6-17,7% and 2,9-14,1% and their development 4,5-10,1% and 2,9-6,5% respectively.

Septoria disease of tomato was noted to infect only the leaves of the plant and the prevalence of the disease was 5,3-13,2% while the development was 1,9-4,0%. When disease incidence in tomato plants was analyzed by the years, the rate varied depending on the type of diseases. In 2017, there was much more precipitation which led to higher spread and development of the diseases botrytiosis (17,7% and 10,1%) and phytophthora than in previous years. It was noted that the prevalence and development of alternariosis, septoria and fusarium wilt diseases were higher in 2018 and 2019, when air humidity was relatively lower during the growing season.

CONCLUSION

The fungal diseases alternaria, gray mold rot, septoria, powdery mildew, phytophthora, fusarium wilt were recorded in the fields of tomato for the production of seeds.

Among the identified diseases of tomato, fusarium wilt and alternaria diseases were found the most common and widespread in seed-producing fields.

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