

ABSTRACT

Studies on Cercospora Leafspot of
Orchids in Trinidad and Tobago

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A survey was conducted by questionnaires and farm visits to orchid growers throughout the country. From the survey, Cercospora was found to be a serious and widespread problem for farmers. Current fungicide applications were found to be less than adequate in controlling this disease.

Cercospora isolates were obtained and evaluated culturally, and on detached orchid leaves of five varieties of orchids. Isolates were found to be culturally different.

Further studies were done on a highly pathogenic Cercospora isolate (#5). These studies included fungicide screening against the pathogen in agar plates, and on detached leaves. The fungicides evaluated were several ergosterol biosynthesis inhibitors (EBI's), two benomyl-type compounds and a contact fungicide. Fungicide mixes were also evaluated. The EBI's alone or mixes were found to be significantly more effective than the benomyl-type fungicides, the contact and their mixes. Some recommendations are suggested.