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**Greens** - There are some important diseases of greens that can take out an entire crop, but with resistant varieties, quality transplants, and good cultural practices this can be avoided. The major concern with greens is diseases of the leaves which will ultimately result in a reduction in quality as well as yields. There are several leafspot diseases of collards, mustard and turnip greens that should be addressed. Downy mildew, White spot, Anthracnose, and *Cercospora* are all important diseases affecting greens.

*Alternaria* can cause serious damage when it is not controlled. It begins as a small spot on the leaf surface. As it grows, the spot gets bigger and begins to form concentric rings. If left alone this disease can cause defoliation of the plant. Downy Mildew is another disease that can cause problems in greens. Plants can be infected at any time by spores that are windblown or moved by workers and equipment. Symptoms appear as a white mildewy appearance on the underside of the leaf. The upper surface of the leaf will usually turn yellow. This disease develops best when conditions are cool and wet. Nighttime temperatures of 46°F, and daytime temperatures below 75°F are optimum for this pathogen. Both of these fungi can be controlled with a scheduled spray program using something like Maneb, Benlate, Kocide or a combination of products.

Two other fungi that produce leaf spots that can lower quality are *Cercospora* and *Cercospora*. *Cercospora* leafspot is sometimes referred to as frog-eye leafspot. *Cercospora* produces large pale leafspots and is often called White spot. White spot causes angular shaped lesions with a distinct yellow halo surrounding them. Both *Cercospora* and *Cercospora* develop in a temperature range from 55°F to 65°F, with plenty of moisture. Control can be achieved through timely applications of many of the same products mentioned previously. Georgia also received an emergency label for the use of Quadris for these two diseases. The label will expire in August of 2001.

It is important to remember that most of these leafspot diseases can overwinter on crop debris left in the field from the previous years crop. You may not have any control over the weather, but you can make sure that crop residue is disced up and buried to remove inoculum for the next crop. It is a good idea to stay out of the field while plants are wet to avoid physical transmission of the pathogens. Finally, many of these pathogens can overwinter on some of our more common cool season weeds. It is important to keep fields free from weeds and turn weeds under at the end of the season.