

**A NEW SPECIES OF LEPTOSPHAERIA CAUSING LEAF
BLIGHT OF COMMON GARDEN ASPARAGUS
IN PUERTO RICO**

Some years ago a severe leaf blight was found in a field of common vegetable asparagus, *Asparagus officinalis* L. var. *atilis* L., growing as an experiment near Bayamón. A close examination was made of the leaf spots and they were found to be caused by a *Leptosphaeria*. The trouble resulted in much defoliation that severely damaged the plants. Indeed, this disease may have been a potent factor in hindering the development of asparagus as a crop in the Island of Puerto Rico. Studies were made and it was found that the malady could be controlled by careful, periodic sprayings with Bordeaux mixture of the 3:3:50 formula.

A description of this leaf blight organism is herewith presented: *Leptosphaeria portoricensis* n. sp. Perithecia sparse vel gregaria, in stromatibus tenuissimo-elongatis, apheriodes vel sphaeriodes-applanatis, nigro-brunneis, ostiolis erumpentibus, rigidis, erectis, mamiliformis demum 80 to 160 μ : elongatis, cylindricis-clavatis, paraphysatis, subsesilibus 60 to 75 x 6-9 μ ; octosporis, sporidias curvatis fusiformibus, 3-septates, profunda constrictus ad septa, locule inferiori hyalinis, acuminate, 15-17 x 3-4 μ , fuligeneis, loculi superiori crassiori, globosis.

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