

What it does

Red stripe causes formation of lesions on leaves.

Why and where it occurs

The disease usually occurs when the plants reach the reproductive stage, starting from panicle initiation. High temperature, high relative humidity, high leaf wetness, and high Nitrogen application favors disease development.

How to identify

Check leaves for lesions and discoloration.

- Initial lesions are pin-sized, and often yellow green to light orange in color. Older lesions appear as orange spots with an upward stripe.
- Lesions become necrotic and coalesce forming a blight appearance on the leaves.
- Lesions also appear on the sheaths, but are less common.

The disease can be confused with orange leaf blight disease. It is hardly distinguishable from the bacterial leaf blight disease at severe and advanced stage of disease development.

To confirm red stripe, check the shape, size and color of lesions. An advanced lesion is characterized by an orange spot with a stripe, which advances towards the tip of the leaf.

How to manage

- Use resistant varieties.
- Contact your local agriculture office for an up-to-date list of available varieties.
- Apply recommended dose of nitrogen.
- Ensure optimum seeding rate and wider plant spacing also appear to reduce the disease.
- Ensure intermittent drainage during panicle initiation.
- Use benzimidazole fungicides (carbendazim or, thiophanate methyl) to treat seeds.
- Spray carbendazim 50WP @1g/L of water.

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Lesions on infected plants are oblong and long