

Verticillium Wilt (also Fusarium Wilt)

Verticillium wilt is a particularly nasty fungal disease that lives in the soil. It invades susceptible plants through their roots and spreads through the plant's vascular system.



The list of plants affected by verticillium wilt is extensive and includes trees, shrubs, garden annuals, and perennials.

Vegetables commonly and severely affected by Verticillium wilt include tomato, pepper, eggplant, and cucumber. Other vegetables such as bean, beet, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, chive, collards, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, and leeks are also affected but not as severely.

Verticillium wilt symptoms mimic those of other plant diseases and environmental problems, making it harder to diagnose. The leaves wilt and curl and turn yellow or red. They eventually turn brown and drop off. Stems and branches die back. It's not unusual to see these symptoms on one side of the plant while the other side appears unaffected.

The symptoms of Fusarium wilt (as well as both kinds of blight) are almost identical to those of Verticillium. In either case, the recommended actions are the same.

There is no effective treatment for verticillium wilt. You should remove and destroy infected plants in order to keep it from spreading your other crops or to your neighbors'.

Do not compost diseased plants!

The disease remains in the soil for up to ten years, so don't plant another susceptible species in the same area. For this reason, it is virtually impossible to eradicate the fungus from the soil.

Catalogues use codes to identify varieties/cultivars that are resistant to wilt:

- V means the plant is resistant to Verticillium wilt
- F indicates the plant is resistant to Fusarium wilt.