Leaf blotch

Gnomonia comari , Phomopsis obscurans, Gibberella avenacea

Damage:

Both *Gnomoniopsis* and *Phomopsis* cause leaf blotch and stem end rots on fruit. Infections on leaves start as spots (similar to mycosphaerella) but grow to irregular brown lesions which can engulf whole leaflets. A flower "blast" where the fungi colonize flowers and turn them brown can happen in some conditions.

Identification:



It is not important to distinguish between *Gnomoniopsis* and *Phomopsis* , as they spread the same way and are controlled by the same methods. Symptoms could be confused with Anthracnose or Mycosporella, but again, control methods are similar.

Spread:

In annual production systems, infection can come with the transplants. In second-year plantings, the infection can overwinter with the plants. Spores of both pathogens are produced on infected tissue in tiny raised fungal structures, which spread by water splash (irrigation or rain).

Heavy fruit infection can occur without leaf infection, and vice versa, so scout both leaves and developing fruit (when present).

Control:

Plant production	Start with high health strawberry transplants.
Pre-flower	Scout carefully early in the season, and especially after rainy weather. Remove and destroy leaves with blotches present soon after transplanting. There is a broader range of effective fungicides available pre-flower, due to residue considerations.
Flowering and fruiting	Spray with an effective fungicide; there are more effective options prior to flowering.

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