Use soil amendments factors
• Combination of inorganic and organic fertilizers reduces incidences of black rot.

Healthy cabbage head

Identify and manage cabbage black rot

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
PO. Box 57811-00200, NAIROBI.
Tel: 254-20-4183301-20, Fax: 254-20-4183344
Email: resource.centre@kari.org
Website: www.kari.org

Compiled by:
Inzaule S.S.

For more information contact:
Centre Director,
KARI-Kakamega, P.O Box 169, Kakamega, 50100
Tel: +254 56 30031, 30039, 30049, 30062, 20893
Fax: +254 56 30039
Email: karikakamega@yahoo.co.uk

KARI information brochure series / 47 /2008
Ksh. 20
**Introduction**

Black rot is a common bacterial disease of cabbage that can cause a 100% yield loss. Black rot causes serious losses to farmers because it has no known chemical control.

**How the disease is spread**

The disease spreads through infected plants, seed or soil, splashing of water, wind, machinery and irrigation.

It may survive in disease crop residues buried in soil up to 2 years.

**Disease signs**

The signs of the disease are presence of yellow, V-shaped, or U-shaped areas extending inwards from the margin of the leaf.

As the disease progress, the yellow areas turn brown and the leaf dies. One plant can produce enough infectious materials to destroy a whole field.

**How to control the disease**

**Removal of infected plants**

- Early removal of infected plants and foliage from the fields can assist in reducing black rot damage.

**Transplanting**

- Only transplant healthy seedlings.

**Crop rotation**

- Crop rotation should be practised after every 3 years.

**Disposal of crop residues**

- To fasten the decomposition of crop residues, chop them up before incorporating in the soil.

**Sanitation practices**

- Workers should wash their hands and disinfect their tools using Jik after working in infested fields.

**Tolerant varieties**

Varieties tolerant to black rot are available. These include

- green challenger;
- Riana and Pruktor.

The causative agent may attack plants at any stage of growth. Farmers need to be able to identify the disease early so that they can use cultural control practices to reduce further damage.