

SUNFLOWER DISEASES IN PAKISTAN IN THE PERIOD 1980 TO 1987.

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During 1980 to 1987, sunflower experimental plots at the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad and different farmer's commercial fields were surveyed for monitoring of sunflower diseases.

Observations in the sunflower experimental plots containing different cultivars and farmer's commercial plots in different provinces of Pakistan indicated that sixteen diseases, charcoal rot (Macrophomina phaseolina), leaf spots (Alternaria helianthi, A.tenuissima & Septoria helianthi), head rot (Rhizopus sp.), rust (Puccinia helianthi), wilt (Verticillium dahliae), black stem rot (Phoma oleracea var. helianthi tuberosi), Phomopsis (Phomopsis sp.), powdery mildew (Erysiphe cichracearum), stalk and head rot (Sclerotinia sclerotiorum & Botrytis cinerea), collar rot (Sclerotium rolfsii), spots (Epicoccum sp.), anthracnose (Colletotrichum sp.) and bacterial soft rot (Erwinia carotovora) were present in Pakistan. Charcoal rot disease was the most prevalent and serious, limiting sunflower production followed by Rhizopus head rot and Alternaria leaf spots in the spring and autumn seasons while the others were of minor importance and do not appear to be a serious problem at the present time.