



**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES**

**DISEASES OF FIELD&HORTICULTURAL CROPS&  
Management 1 PPA - 312**

## LECTURE 13

### 1. NAME OF DISEASE – BLISTER BLIGHT

**Pathogen – *Exobasidium vexans***

#### **Symptoms**

- Initially oily, yellowish, translucent spots appear on the tender leaf and turn to deep red shiny blisters
- The circular spot gradually enlarges to 3 to 13mm diameter, bulged on the under surface of the leaf with a concave trough like depression on the upper surface  $\frac{3}{4}$
- Leaves become curled and distorted
- First flush of 2-3 young leaves are attacked and the young shoots and buds are killed
- Mature leaf is not affected
- In nursery infection, seedlings are stunted with many thin stems instead of a single stalk
- Repeated attacks cause death of seedlings
- Badly affected nurseries will have to be abandoned
- Succulent leaves and green shoots of newly pruned tea are most susceptible  $\frac{3}{4}$
- Basidiospores cause secondary infection



#### **Survival and spread**

**Primary:** Basidiospores in infected plant debris

**Secondary:** Basidiospores dispersed by rain splash and wind

**Favourable conditions**

- Relative humidity > 83% for 7 to 10 days favours disease
- Temperature above 35°C inhibit the disease
- Bushes in low, moist and shady localities suffer more
- Pruned bushes with new flush is highly susceptible

**Management**

- Seedlings should be protected in nursery by weekly sprays of Copper oxychloride 0.3%
- Spray, a mixture of 210g Copper oxychloride + 210g Nickel chloride per ha at 5 days intervals from June-September and 11 day intervals in October-November.
- Mancozeb, Tridemorph, Triadimefon and Pyracarbolid (Sicarol) offer good disease control under field conditions.