

# DISEASE MANAGEMENT ROADMAP FOR SMALL ACREAGE GROWERS

## Planning

- Treat saved seed with hot water or chlorine (bleach) to kill disease-causing pathogens.
- Select cultivars with tolerance or resistance to plant diseases.
- Intercrop or succession plant with crops that are not susceptible to the same disease.

## Site Preparation

- Rotate crops from different families for 2 to 3 years.
- Fertilize according to soil test results; do not overfertilize.

## Planting

- Avoid planting too early; wait until soil and air temperatures are suitable for the crop.
- Space plants to allow for increased air flow and reduced humidity.
- Use mulch to preserve soil moisture and reduce movement of pathogens; cover crops can also serve as a mulch layer.

## Identifying Problems

- Scout regularly for abnormal plants or growth patterns.
- Remove dead, dying, and diseased tissue as soon as possible.
- Contact a county Extension agent for disease identification, management recommendations, or assistance submitting samples to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Fungicides and biologicals are best used as preventatives, especially when disease was a problem the previous year.

## Sanitation

- Avoid tracking soil from infested areas to clean fields.
- Remove infected plant parts throughout the growing season.
- Harvest marketable produce in one container and damaged/diseased produce in another.
- Do NOT compost diseased plants or produce.

## End of Season

- Remove all leaves, stems, roots, and produce from fields or structures.
- Clean and sanitize all tools and harvest equipment.
- Save seeds from the best produce.
- Plant a cover crop that provides disease management benefits.



Connect with Plant  
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