

Diseases of Crossandra

1) WILT

The disease is considered as one of the most damaging disease of this crop and cause considerable yield losses.

- **Symptoms:**

The characteristics symptoms of the disease include drooping of the leaves, marginal yellowing and rotting of the roots or rootlets.

- **Causal organism:** *Rhizoctonia* sp. and *Fusarium solani* (Mart.) Sacc.

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- **Disease cycle and epidemiology:**

These fungi overwinter in the infected plant debris as well as in soil as sclerotia or chlamydospores.

- Moderate to high temperatures with fair amount of moisture was found conducive for disease development.
- The infection is more severe if the nematode (*Pratylenchus* sp.) predisposes the plant for the attack of the pathogens.

- **Management:**

Collect and destroy the infected plant debris to reduce the primary inoculum.

- Follow long crop rotation.
- Soil amendment with neem cake (250g/m²) and soil solarization for 40-45 days during summer months are also helpful in managing this disease.
- Drenching of soil with carbendazim (0.1%) or thiophanate methyl (0.1%) immediately after appearance of the symptoms gave good control.

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