

Lettuce Downy Mildew Disease Information

ENZA ZADEN



Professional lettuce growers in today's world are confronted with more and more disease pressure, allowed to use less preventative chemicals but required to grow product for ever higher market standards.

Being passionate lettuce breeders and seed growers we understand that our customers are doing their utmost to grow products which can meet with the highest market demands. For this reason South Pacific Seeds and Enza Zaden offers a wide range of solid varieties with excellent field performance, outstanding post harvest quality and high levels of disease resistance.

Bremia lactucae (Bl), or downy mildew in lettuce, is very variable. Even within one lettuce production field several *Bremia* races may be present. Besides the officially nominated strains, many less frequent occurring races are present in nature. Although South Pacific Seeds and Enza Zaden are offering growers lettuce varieties with resistance to the nominated Bl isolates, this is not a full insurance against *Bremia*. South Pacific Seeds and Enza Zaden emphasize the importance of chemical control and hygiene measures in addition to plant resistance.

Registered fungicide application (especially in a young plant stage) in combination with the best possible genetic resistance will help to prevent the development of new *Bremia* races. Proper hygiene practices, such as removal of infected plants and/or leaf material before and after harvest and cleaning material and equipment after field visits, will reduce the spread of *Bremia* in lettuce crops.

