

KHAN JAHANGIR<sup>1\*</sup>, MOHAMED F. R KHAN<sup>2</sup>, and RANDY NELSON<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, <sup>2</sup>North Dakota State University and University of Minnesota, Soil Science Department, Fargo, ND 58105, <sup>3</sup>Soil Science Department, Fargo, ND 58105. **Using spore traps for *Cercospora beticola* in sugarbeet.**

*Cercospora* leaf spot, caused by *Cercospora beticola* Sacc., is the most damaging foliar disease of sugarbeet worldwide. The disease is polycyclic in nature and the pathogen produces many generations of conidia during the growing season, which are disseminated mainly by wind and rain splash. Timely application of the first fungicide application is crucial in reducing the rate of infection, and contributes to effective season long *Cercospora* control. Spore traps may be useful to determine the timing of spore dispersal, and the number of spores dispersed. The objective of this study was to determine whether *C. beticola* spores could be trapped, and to compare the efficacy of different spore traps. Seven day volumetric spore traps (Burkard and Osborne) and hand made coffee can trap were evaluated for their utility in trapping conidia of *C. beticola* in sugarbeet fields. Hand made trap was constructed using an empty 1.1 kg 'coffee can' with the lid and bottom removed and attached to a 0.8 m long metal rod. A cut out portion of a hollow door handle was attached by a binder clip to the 'coffee can' and used to hold a wooden clothes pin for mounting a glass slide. A thin layer of petroleum jelly was placed in 2.5mm<sup>2</sup> area on one side at the end of a microscope slide. Traps were placed in a *Cercospora* disease nursery at Crookston, MN, and in a sugarbeet field in Breckenridge, MN, in 2002, and in Breckenridge, and St. Thomas, ND, in 2003. Traps were positioned 0.6 m above ground, recovered every 7 d, and examined microscopically for *C. beticola*. In both 2002 and 2003, *C. beticola* spores were successfully trapped and identified. At all locations, volumetric spore traps collected significantly higher number of *C. beticola* spores than the coffee can trap.