

White Rust of Kangkong **(*Albugo ipomae-panduratae* [Schw.] Swing)**

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White rust of kangkong (*Ipomea aquatica*) is a leaf, stem and flower disease caused by a fungus. The disease is observed to be common and widespread on farms planted to kangkong during the rainy season in the Marianas. Heavily infested plants become unsightly and objectionable for market purposes. The symptoms of the disease are the appearance of white or creamy-yellow pustules that can occur on the leaves, stems or flowers, but most commonly on the lower leaf surfaces. The affected parts may become thick and curl inwards. When infection is severe, the size of the leaves decreases and the plant may become stunted.

The disease infects sweet potato and several perennial morning glories as well as kangkong. These may serve as a source of inoculum to infect kangkong plantings, but spores also persist for some time in diseased debris on the soil. Cool moist weather favors the development of the disease.

Control

Destroy infected plant parts and all plant debris after harvest. Keep down weeds, especially morning glories and their relatives. Practice crop rotation and grow the crop where air circulation is good.


For additional information and current recommendations, consult an Extension Agent at your local land grant institution.

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