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Diseases of Sesame

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The flowering vegetation sesame (*Sesamum indicum*), often known as benne, belongs to the Sesamum genus. There are many wild relatives in Africa, but fewer in India. It has become widely naturalised in tropical areas all over the world and is grown for its edible, pod-shaped seeds. The major producers in 2018 were Sudan, Myanmar, and India, with a total global production of 6 million metric tonnes.

One of the first domesticated oilseed crops is sesame seed, which dates back more than 3,000 years. Numerous other species of sesamum exist; the majority are native to sub-Saharan Africa and are wild. The cultivar *S. indicum* was originated in India. It thrives in drought-stricken areas when other crops fail. One of the seeds with the highest oil content is sesame. It is a frequently used ingredient in cuisines all around the world and has a deep, nutty flavour. It can cause allergic responses in some people, just as other foods. Various diseases affect its yield. Listed below are some of the most significant ones:

1. Phyllody: *Phytoplasma*

Economic importance: McGibbon (1924) was the first to report its occurrence in Burma.
The disease is transmitted by vector leafhopper.
Disease Management:

- Remove infected plants and weed host.
- Spray Dimethoate (Rogor) @ 200ml/200lt. water/acre to control the jassids.

2. Alternaria blight: *Alternaria sesami*

Economic Importance: It was first recorded by Dey 1948 from India. Disease causes 15-20% yield losses.
Pathogen:
It is seed borne. Temperature of 20-30 º Celsius and high humid conditions favour the disease.
Management:

- Spray the crop twice with mancozeb @800g/250 lt. water/acre at an interval of 10-15 days.

3. Charcoal rot or Root rot: *Macrophomina phaseolina*

Economic Importance: Disease cause yield losses upto 5-100%.
Day temperature of 30 º Celsius and prolonged drought followed by irrigation.