Earlier reports indicated that differences exist in bacterial leaf spot susceptibility among *Tagetes* species. Indeed, all references before the report of Trimboli et al (7) described the disease only on the African marigold (*T. erecta*). Although we do not know whether earlier workers made field observations on the French marigold (*T. patula* Cav.), inoculations on *T. patula* did not result in leaf spot development (1,6). Sundheim (6) and Trimboli et al (7) failed to incite leaf spots on *T. tenuifolia* Cav. (*T. signata* Bartl.), although apical chlorosis could be induced after stem inoculations (7).

During September 1978, five African, six French, and three triploid hybrid cultivars in Wisconsin were observed for disease reaction. Leaf spots were observed on each group. African type cultivar reactions ranged from very susceptible ('First Lady' and 'Moonshot'), to moderately susceptible ('Orange Jubilee' and 'Crackerjack'), to moderately resistant ('Fantastic Orange'). Five French type cultivars were resistant; 'Petite Harmony,' 'Yellow Boy,' 'Petite Yellow,' 'Sparky,' and 'Aquarius' each had only a few lesions. 'Red Wheel,' however, was susceptible, and many plants were dead. Two hybrid cultivars between *T. erecta* and *T. patula*, 'Triple Orange' and 'Triple Yellow,' were moderately susceptible, whereas 'Showboat' was very susceptible and died after infection.

It is possible that the bacterium was introduced through infected seed (1,7). The disease did not spread rapidly until after the plants were mature. Unusually heavy rains during July and August probably enabled the disease to develop from very low quantities of primary inoculum.

The bedding plant industry has been experiencing substantial growth in recent years, and marigolds are significant in this expansion. Of 25 annuals grown as a bedding plant crop, marigolds rank second only to petunia in popularity and are equal to tomato seedlings and geranium cuttings, with 10% of the total production (8). Marigolds have long been regarded as a relatively disease-free crop, which no doubt contributes to their popularity. Bacterial leaf spot of marigold should be considered a disease of potential importance to the bedding plant industry of the United States.

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