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**Enza Zaden's complete spinach portfolio resistant to new fungus**

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[Enza Zaden](#) has a complete spinach portfolio resistant to the new type of fungus, Pe:20.

The International Working Group on Peronospora in Spinach announced on May 13 the identification of a new race Pe: 20 of the downy mildew pathogens (*Peronospora effusa*) affecting spinach. The determination was based on a comprehensive review of isolates collected from growers' fields and experimental markets worldwide.



The emergence of this new type of fungus threatens the global spinach industry, making the development of resistance against this strain of fungus an urgent priority. As a member of the IWGP, Enza Zaden identified new isolates using the standard host differential set.

After testing its portfolio, the company concludes that its current spinach portfolio has proven resistant to this new strain, Pe:20, which means a wide range of solid varieties with excellent field performance, outstanding post-harvest quality and complete resistance to all official Pe strains.

*Peronospora effusa*, downy spinach mildew, caused by the obligate oomycete pathogen, leads to notable economic losses due to the disease's impact. Enza Zaden promotes an integrated strategy for managing resistance, where utilizing resistant varieties is crucial, alongside disease control measures and hygiene practices. The prevention of mildew in crops and the development of new strains can be accomplished by using proper hygiene techniques, such as removing debris and

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diseased plants.

Resistance plays a crucial role in ensuring successful production of leafy crops. In Enza Zaden's commitment to adding value across the entire agricultural chain, from growers to consumers, it emphasizes the importance of leafy crops' resistance against spinach downy mildew.

On the one hand, resistances offer a great advantage to growers with lower inputs, higher yields and reduced risk of crop loss. For retailers and processors, resistance means high-quality products with longer shelf-life. On the other hand, to the final consumers, resistances guarantee healthier products and chemical-free vegetables, avoiding food shortages. The company said that's why its dedicated breeders continuously monitor the changes in the spinach population in response to increased resistance, ensuring that its varieties provide optimal protection.

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