The blight which occurred around Brownsmead and other sections of the coastal area this season was a form of Ascochyta blight. This disease affects every phase of plant growth. It causes stem rot and poor stands. It produces purple or brown lesions on the main stems, large brown or purple spots on the leaves, small ugly spots on the pods and causes shrinking of the pods. The yield is greatly reduced. As the pods mature in the presence of the fungus, the fungi penetrate the seeds or otherwise contaminate them. It has followed pea growing from coast to coast because it is seed borne. Saving seed in areas where the disease is abundant is literally suicidal to successful pea culture.

This fungus can overwinter in plant debris. Re-planting in the same location is extremely likely to be followed by serious outbreak of blight.

CONTROL

1. **Clean seed.** Plant only seed obtained from a reputable source in a dry locality where every precaution to eliminate seed infection is taken.

2. **Seed treatment.** Seed treatment, as with organic mercuries is not recommended for this disease. Such treatment does increase stands where several factors are concerned but is inadvisable for Oregon conditions except in very early planting.

3. **Crop rotation.** Crop rotation is imperative during the coming season. Removal of vines from the infected areas should be carried out as soon as possible.

4. **Spray control.** For the coming season which will be attended with great risk of re-infection even in clean soil in the Brownsmead area, spraying with 4-4-50 type Bordeaux seems advisable. If detergents such as Pomo, Aroskap, Vatsol, etc. are added to the Bordeaux mixture, an effective protective spray can be assured. In this procedure, one should emphasize spraying the plants when small. For the Brownsmead conditions, the sprays should begin at the 4 inch stage and be applied at intervals of about ten days until the plants are about 3 feet high.

This fungus tends to climb the stems as the foliage increases. Early spraying is, therefore, imperative. If this early protection is given, the plants should reach bearing stage without additional spraying except as needed for aphid control.