This term is given to describe similar appearing defects which can be caused by many factors. These spots may be few in number initially, but can rapidly multiply in just a few hours.
Downy Mildew
Rusty Brown Discoloration

The photographs below illustrate Rusty Brown Discoloration which occurs in lettuce marketed during January through April. The disease is apparently a physiological disorder which originates in the field, but what factor or factors cause the condition to develop are not known.
RUSTY BROWN DISCOLORATION shall be considered on the basis of whether it seriously detracts from the shipping quality (marketing quality) of the head exclusive of the wrapper leaves.

THIS PHOTOGRAPH ILLUSTRATES THE MAXIMUM EXTENT TO WHICH A HEAD MAY BE AFFECTED BY RUSTY BROWN DISCOLORATION IN ANY U.S. GRADE. A HEAD SHALL BE SCORED AS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED WHEN THIS TYPE OF DISCOLORATION ON HEAD LEAVES AGGREGATES MORE THAN THE AMOUNT AND DEGREE SHOWN.

Example of certificate statement under “Condition”

Head Leaves: From 1 to 4 heads per carton
average 12% serious damage
by Rusty Brown Discoloration
affecting midribs and veins

LT-CP-1-A
Rusty Brown Discoloration
May 1990 (Previously April 1970, Side II)
Discoloration Following Bruising

Discoloration following brusing shall be scored as damage or serious damage respectively when materially or seriously detracting from the appearance of more than 2 outer head leaves.

This photograph illustrates discoloration following bruising which materially detracts from the appearance of one outer head leaf.

“Damage”

When three outer head leaves are affected by discoloration following bruising to the extent shown in this photograph the head is damaged.

“Serious Damage”

When three outer head leaves are affected by discoloration following bruising to an extent twice the amount and/or degree shown in this photograph the head is seriously damaged.
“Brown Stain”

The photographs below illustrate Brown Stain, a new lettuce discorder. This condition occurs as superficial oval to irregular necrotic area ¼ to ½ inch in diameter but sometimes larger, particularly when they coalesce. Affected areas are generally on the outer surface of the head leaves, on or near the midrib, and usually extend toward the basal half of the leaf. These areas may be slightly sunken, color ranges from pale straw to brown, and margins are sometimes dark and mottled.

LT-CP-3
Brown Stain
May 1990 (Previously October 1970, Side I)
Brown Stain shall be scored as damage or serious damage respectively when materially or seriously detracting from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality (marketing quality) of the head exclusive of the wrapper leaves.

Example of certificate statement under “Condition”

Head leaves: From 1 to 5 heads per carton, average 10%
Damage by Brown Stain.

LT-CP-3-A
Brown Stain
May 1990 (Previously October 1970, Side II)