




Integrated Management of Anthracnose Disease in Avocado

KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

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<p>Healthy avocado fruit</p>	<p>Orange / pink spores on infected avocado</p>	<p>Infection of anthracnose disease on avocado flesh</p>

Source: Amata R., KALRO

Description

Anthracnose disease in avocado is caused by a fungal pathogen (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*; *Glomerella cingulata*). Other crops affected by this diseases are mango, strawberry, citrus, banana, tomato, peas, capsicum, chilli, eggplant, geraniums and roses. The fungus infects the fruits and remain inactive until the fruit ripens. It reduces the shelf life of affected fruits causing major postharvest losses.

Symptoms

- Sunken lesions/spots on fruits, leaves and stem with reddish or brownish raised edges.
- Defined spots on fruits.
- Salmon/pink spore masses form later, starting in the middle of the spots.
- In fruits, spots enlarge and increase in number with time, reducing the shelf life.
- The entire fruit eventually rots.

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices

- Plant avocado trees at least 7 m x 7 m apart and prune for aeration to enhance drying up.
- Remove and destroy infected plant parts and debris to reduce the pathogen inoculum.
- Avoid overhead irrigation to reduce splash and spread of the disease spores.
- Store fruits in a cold room to stop pathogen growth.
- Avoid injuring the fruits as the pathogen uses this as entry points to the plant.

Chemical management

- Spray fruits/plants with copper based fungicide e.g. Agricop, Champflo SC or Colonizer 440 WP or azoxystrobin based products e.g. Azoxy Top 325 SC, Amistar Top 325 SC according to manufacturers' recommendations.

Note: Agro-chemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety measures, particularly the manufacturer's instructions.

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Disclaimer: The content of this publication is for general information to avocado farmers and technical staff only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of the information herein without professional advice from crop health experts. This factsheet was produced by KALRO as part of commercialization of avocado with support of National Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP).

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