

Integrated Management of Avocado Sun Blotch Disease

KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

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Healthy avocado plant



*Sunken yellow and white
discolouration on fruit*

*Source: UC State wide IPM program
Regents. University of California*



*Lengthwise necrotic, yellow streaks
on the leaf and fruit*

*Source: Pacific pest pathogens
weeds and pesticides*

Description

Avocado sun blotch disease is caused by a viroid called Avocado sun blotch viroid. The disease has been reported in Muranga County can be transmitted mechanically through contaminated tools or infected planting material (root stocks, scions, seeds) and pollen. Use of disease free planting material is very important in the management of this disease since some plants have been reported to have the viroid despite being symptomless. The disease affects avocado yields and quality with losses of up to 82%.

Diagnosis/identification

Symptoms

Sun blotch disease causes a wide range of symptoms including:

- Sunken yellow, white or red discoloration on fruit, stem and leaves
- Leaves develop narrow, lengthwise necrotic, red or yellow streaks on the surface and became deformed
- Rectangular cracking of the bark of the tree.

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices

1. Use of disease free planting materials.
2. Index for presence of viruses of nursery seedlings to confirm their health status before transplanting.
3. Uproot and destroy symptomatic trees through burying 2 - 3 feet or burning.
4. Disinfect farm tools using a disinfectant e.g. Jik (50 ml/1 Litre of water) as you work from tree to tree.

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 affiliated to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). 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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