



Integrated Management of Bacterial Canker of Avocado

KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

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<p>White colour on mature avocado tree trunk. Source: UC IPM</p>	<p>Oily wound on avocado tree Source: California avocado commission</p>	<p>Oily orange /white colour on a tree trunk Source: UC IPM</p>

Description

Bacterial canker disease of avocado is caused by a bacteria (*Xanthomonas campestris*). It is commonly found on leaves or bark and infects the plant through wounds. The disease is favoured by moist and warm conditions and causes yield losses of 20 - 30%.

Diagnosis/identification

- Presence of oily dark areas on the bark of the tree
- There is raised loose bark
- Fluid may ooze from affected areas and later dry leaving a whitish powder
- The affected bark develop a reddish brown decayed color
- Dark streaks are observed below the bark of affected areas
- Severely affected trees may be stunted.

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices

- Use clean and disease free seedlings.
- Scout 2-3 times a week for initial symptoms and timely control.
- Avoid injuring plants as this creates entry points for the bacteria.
- Remove diseased twigs, branches, barks on the ground.
- Bury infested plant debris (2-3 feet deep) to reduce bacteria in the field.
- Ensure that the orchard is weeded to remove weeds.

Chemical management:

- Spray copper based fungicides e.g. Agricop 50 WP, Champflo SC, Chemcopp 50 WP or Colonizer 440 WP as soon as initial symptoms are observed.

Note: Agro-chemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners considering existing cautionary/safety measures, particularly the manufacturers' 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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