
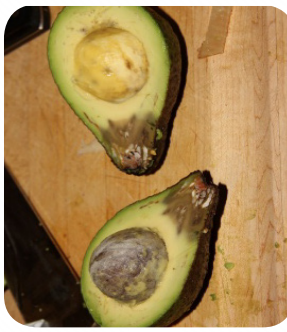


Integrated Management of Stem end Rot disease on Avocado

KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

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<p>Healthy avocado fruit Source: Amata R., KALRO</p>	<p>Stem end rot of avocado fruit Source: Amata R., KALRO</p>	<p>Cross section of stem end rot on avocado</p>

Description

Stem-end rot in avocado is caused by *Dothiorella* spp., *Phomopsis* spp., *Botryodiplodia* spp., and *Lasiodiplodia* sp fungi. It causes small lesions/spots and fruit rot on mature fruits. The infection is favoured by wet seasons and infections becomes active after picking the fruits. It results in yield losses of up to 40%.

Diagnosis/identification

- ❖ Initially lesions are small, irregular brown to reddish in colour on the peel.
- ❖ Brown streaks run lengthwise in the flesh under the peel spreading along vascular bundles in the fruit.
- ❖ Small, purplish brown spots appear on the fruit, but most often at the stem end.
- ❖ As the fruit ages, the surface black spots enlarge and become sunken.
- ❖ Fruit shrivels, the black surface is covered with grayish brown fungal mycelium and spores.
- ❖ In severe cases the entire fruit may decay, causing the flesh to turn brown and watery, with an offensive odour.

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices

- ❖ Scout 2 - 3 times a week for initial symptoms
- ❖ Prune during dry conditions dead limbs, twigs and dispose dead wood and old fruit
- ❖ Bury infested plant debris (2 feet deep) to reduce amount of fungus in the field
- ❖ Do not harvest during or immediately after the rain
- ❖ Ensure that the orchard is weeded to remove any alternative hosts
- ❖ Minimize the time between harvest and when fruit is placed into cold storage at the packing house to reduce disease incidence.
- ❖ Minimize mechanical injuries during harvest and storage.
- ❖ Disinfect pruning tools using Jik solution (Dilute 50 ml Jik in one litre of water).

Chemical management

- ❖ Spray fruits/plants with copper based fungicides 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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