



भा.कृ.अनु.प. - केन्द्रीय नींबूवर्गीय फल अनुसंधान संस्थान

ICAR-CENTRAL CITRUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद, कृषि अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा विभाग

Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Agricultural Research & Education

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

अमरावती रोड, नागपूर-४४००३३, महाराष्ट्र, भारत

Amravati Road, Nagpur – 440033, Maharashtra, India

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Dr. Dilip Ghosh
DIRECTOR

Email : director.ccri@icar.gov.in

Web : ccri.icar.gov.in

Office : 0712-2500813

: 0712-2500572

: 0712-2500249

Fax : 0712-2500813

DISEASE OCCURRENCE

Alert for *Phytophthora* brown rot in Mosambi/Sweet orange and Nagpuri Santra

As per recent report, incidence of *Phytophthora* brown rot disease has started appearing in citrus growing region of Katol and Narkhed talukas of Vidarbha. *Phytophthora* brown rot is a fruit disease usually associated with continuous wet weather and poor water drainage conditions. It commonly appears during late monsoon phase (mid-August to October) following periods of extended high rainfall. It can be confused with fruit drop from other causes at that time of the year. Symptoms appear primarily on mature or nearly mature fruit. Initially, the firm, leathery lesions have a water-soaked appearance, but they soon turn soft and have a tan to olive brown color and a pungent odor. At high humidity level, fruit surface become covered by a delicate whitish mycelia growth of the fungus. Infected fruit eventually drop. Occasionally, twigs, leaves and blossoms are infected, turning brown and then dying. The most serious aspect of this disease is the fact that fruit infected before harvest may not show symptoms. If infected fruit get mixed with healthy fruits, the disease may spread quickly from fruit to fruit in storage and during transit.

The disease is caused by two species of *Phytophthora*: *P. palmivora* and *P. nicotianae*. *P. palmivora* is more aggressive because it produces airborne sporangia and can affect fruit throughout the canopy.

Management of brown rot relies on prevention. Pruning tree skirts 24 or more inches above the ground can significantly reduce brown rot. One spray of copper fungicide (1% Bordeaux mixture or, copper oxychloride @ 3.0 g/ Lit) between June- July before or just after the first rain provides protection throughout the wet season. When rainfall is excessive, you may have to repeat the spray in August or September.

Dr. D. K. Ghosh, Director, ICAR-CCRI has appealed to the Nagpur mandarin growers of Vidarbha region to remain alert and advised the growers to spray fosetyl Aluminium or mefenoxam MZ @ 2.5g / Litre of water in the infected orchards, in case of severe disease occurrence. Precautions should also be taken during harvesting not to include brown rot-affected fruits in the crates/ boxes as this could result in rejection at the processing or packing facility.

Place : Nagpur

Date : 05/07/2021

(Dilip Ghosh)

(Director)



***Phytophthora*-induced Brown rot disease in Nagpur mandarin**

Mycelial covering of *Phytophthora* on Nagpuri santra fruit



Symptoms of Brown Rot in Mosambi Fruits