

Anthracnose disease of chilli

Recognize the problem

Anthracnose is one of the most serious fungal diseases in chilli. The disease causes both pre and post-harvest fruit decay. The disease is characterised by the appearance of small black circular spots on the skin of the fruits that spread in the direction of the long axis, thus becoming more or less elliptical. As the infection progresses, the spots become either diffused and black/greenish/dirty grey, or they are markedly delimited by a thick and sharp black outline enclosing a lighter black or straw coloured area.

Background

Anthracnose usually develops under conditions of high humidity when rainfall occurs after the fruits have started to ripen. The disease is more likely to develop on mature fruits, although it can occur on immature fruits as well.

Management

- Use healthy pathogen-free chilli seed or transplants/seedlings
- Remove affected plants early to control the spread of the disease
- Keep transplants clean by controlling weeds and solanaceous volunteers in the vicinity of the transplant houses
- Avoid having stagnated water in nursery beds and fields to avoid fungal infection. The field should have good drainage and be free from infected plant debris.
- Use a seed treatment with carbendazim at the rate of 2 gram per kg of seed
- Use a foliar spray with copper-oxychloride, difenoconazole, and carbendazim at the rate of 2 gram per litre of water.
- The first foliar spray is given at the first pair of leaf stage and subsequent sprays should be done twice at 20-day intervals

Infected fruit (Photo by Yuan-Min Shen, Taichung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, Bugwood (CC BY NC))



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Colletotrichum* spp.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Nepal



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