

# Protect African eggplant from anthracnose

## Recognize the problem

Anthrachnose is a fungal disease. It causes grey, dark, sunken lesions on leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits. On leaves, anthrachnose appears first as small, irregular yellow or brown flat longish spots along veins. Spots darken with age and expand. On fruits, it produces large grey-dark, sunken spots. In moist weather, pinkish spore masses form in the centre of these spots. The fruits will rot.

## Background

The fungus survives from year to year in the soil, on crop residues, seeds and weeds. It disperses by water splashes, insects or other contacts. It can spread quickly during the rainy seasons. Contact chemicals such as Mancozeb can prevent such spread and new infections. Mancozeb is a preventative/protectant fungicide but cannot cure infected plants. It has a multi site mode of action, meaning that disease resistance to the chemical is unlikely. Mancozeb is less poisonous (WHO toxicity class U) than many other chemicals. Consider taking action when 3 to 5 plants per ½ acre have at least one young fruit showing early symptoms. When many plants have symptoms, then they are nearly all infected, and chemical sprays will not help any more.

## Management

- Buy Mancozeb-based products from a registered agro-dealer
- Mancozeb has many different trade names such as Dithane, Uthane M45, Rolim 700WP, Manzeb, Manzane and others.
- Do not buy Mancozeb-Metalaxyl mixed products. Metalaxyl does not work well against this fungus.
- Usually mix 40g product with 20 litres, which translates to 200g product per 100 litres or 2-3 kg per hectare. But read product label for dosage instructions because products differ.
- Add 2 tablespoons of sticker (teepol/any liquid soap) per 20 litres of water to allow the mixture to stick on the leaves. Mix properly.
- Spray mid-morning when there is no dew or late afternoons when no wind. Spray whole plants to achieve good coverage. Do not spray drought-stressed plants.
- Do not enter the field the same day you sprayed.
- Pre-harvest interval two weeks.
- Do not store left over spray solution, as it loses power. Dilute any remaining solution in knapsacks sprayer by factor 10, and spray again onto field to get rid of it.

Anthrachnose patches on egg plant.  
(Photo by Eria Bwana-Simba)



Dark brown anthrachnose areas along veins of egg plant leaf.  
(Photo by Shoura Chemicals)



Scientific name(s) > *Colletotrichum spp.*, *Glomerella spp.*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Zambia



Authors: Mooya Nzila  
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute ZARI of Ministry of Agric. And Livestock  
tel: +260 966 728668 email: mooyanzila@yahoo.com

Edited by Plantwise.