



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Breadfruit *Phytophthora* fruit rot (130)



Photo 1. Fruit infection by *Phytophthora palmivora* on breadfruit. The white area is the cottony growth or body of the water mould (it is not a fungus) and contains the spores.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On breadfruit, but also cocoa and coconut, papaya, rubber, and many more.  
An important disease.
- A water mould, an oomycete, not a fungus. Spores are splashed by rain from soil onto lower fruit; later, spores on fruit spread in wind-driven rain. The spores are lemon shaped, and can be seen with a lens.
- Cultural control: prune lower branches to prevent fruit infection; "top" trees starting when young, keeping them between 3-4 m to facilitate management of the disease; apply mulch to prevent rain splash of spores onto lower fruit; avoid susceptible varieties (e.g., Puou in Samoa).
- Chemical control: protectants - copper, chlorothalonil, mancozeb; systemics – metalaxyl, phosphorous acid.

#### Common Name

Breadfruit rot

#### Scientific Name

*Phytophthora palmivora*

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Information (and Photo 1) is from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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International Agricultural Research

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