



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Citrus storage moulds (197)



Photo 1. Green mould of citrus, *Penicillium digitatum*.



Photo 2. Blue mould of citrus, *Penicillium digitatum*.



Photo 3. Green mould of citrus, *Penicillium digitatum*, spreading by fruit-to-fruit contact in storage.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On citrus. Two moulds are common, blue and green. Important diseases.
- They mostly occur in storage, with spores in the air infecting through wounds made during handling and by insects. Spread can also occur by fruit-to-fruit contact.
- Cultural control: do not pick fruit when wet, as damage is more likely; handle carefully; remove infected fruit immediately, before sporulation; refrigerate if fruit held in storage for some time; wrap individually if fruit-to-fruit spread likely during transport.
- Chemical control: use recommended fungicides against moulds; dip in thiabendazole at manufacturers' dose rate for 30secs, within 24h of harvest.

Common Name

Citrus blue and green moulds

Scientific Name

Penicillium italicum (blue mould) and *Penicillium digitatum* (green mould).

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Photos 1&3 Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

