



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

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### Cucurbit wet rot (144)



Photo 1. Cucurbit wet rot, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on fruit of squash near the soil surface. The fungus is forming dark spores giving the fruit a "hairy" look.



Photo 2. Cucurbit wet rot, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on capsicum.



Photo 3. Cucurbit wet rot, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on zucchini. Similar to Photo 1.



Photo 4. *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on dying leaves of capsicum.



Photo 5. *Choanephora cucurbitarum* blossom blight.



Photo 6. Cucurbit wet rot, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on capsicum. Possibly, the wet rot has followed damage caused by anthracnose or sunscald.



Photo 7. Spores of cucumber wet rot, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, on bean.

## Summary

- Worldwide distribution. A common fungus, causing rots on fruit, flowers and leaves in bean, cucumber, papaya and tomato families. A minor disease.
- Spores are splashed from soil onto wounds made by insects, weather events or during cultivation. Also, flowers wilt, become infected, then supply spores.
- Spread is by spores on the wind. Worse in wet weather, high temperatures and high humidity.
- Rots occur in cold storage without producing spores.
- Cultural control: plant spacing important for squash and zucchini, allowing leaves to dry rapidly after rain.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

## Common Name

Cucurbit wet rot, Choanephora fruit rot, Choanephora blossom blight

## Scientific Name

*Choanephora cucurbitarum*

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Information from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany. Photo 1 Gerald Holmes, Valent USA Corporation, Bugwood.org. Photos 2-5 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji.

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

