



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Passionfruit *Phytophthora* rot (154)



Photo 1. Stem rot, water mould, *Phytophthora nicotianae*. Rots are purple at first, later brown. When they girdled the stem they cause a wilt.



Photo 2. Fruit rot caused by the water mould, *Phytophthora nicotianae*. Rots are grey-green at first and later light brown.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On passionfruit, cultivated and wild. Note, this is the same fungus that causes a similar disease on tomato (root rot, and a firm dark fruit rot; **see Fact Sheet no. 157**), and also attacks capsicum, citrus (**see Fact Sheet no. 264**), papaya (**see Fact Sheet no. 152**), pineapple, and tobacco.
- A water mould, an oomycete, not a fungus.
- A blight of young leaves, brown spots on older ones, rots on fruits and vines; root decay causing wilts.
- Spread by rain splash from spores in the soil; long distance spread is on wind-driven rain, and perhaps on nursery plants.
- Cultural control: yellow variety rootstocks with graft 30 cm above soil; avoid planting in poorly drained land; prune to aid air circulation and drying; grass barriers to stop rain-splash; collect trash and burn after harvest.
- Chemical control: copper or mancozeb (protectants); or phosphorous acid (systemic).

Common Name

Fruit rot, *Phytophthora* blight

Scientific Name

Phytophthora nicotianae; previously, *Phytophthora nicotianae* pv. *parasitica*. Note that in Fiji *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has also been reported as the cause of collar rot.

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Information (and Photo 2) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany. Photo 1 *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing.

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

