

Cucurbit anthracnose (200)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. A wet-weather disease, common on cucurbits, i.e., members of the cucumber family, especially, cucumber, melon and watermelon. An important disease.
- Angular dark brown spots on watermelon; brown spots on melon and cucumber with halos, and centres that fall out. Large, brown, round, sunken spots on the fruit, with pink spore masses in wet weather.
- Spread in wind-blown rain; longer distances in seed.
- Cultural control: certified seed; tolerant varieties (cucumber, watermelon); check seedlings in nursery; avoid planting near older infected crops; avoid overhead irrigation, or apply early in the day; avoid entering fields when plants are wet; weed; collect and burn trash after harvests; crop rotation.
- Chemical control: copper, chlorothalonil, or mancozeb.

Common Name

Cucurbit anthracnose

Scientific Name

Colletotrichum orbiculare; sometime known as *Colletotrichum lagenarium*. Three races are known.

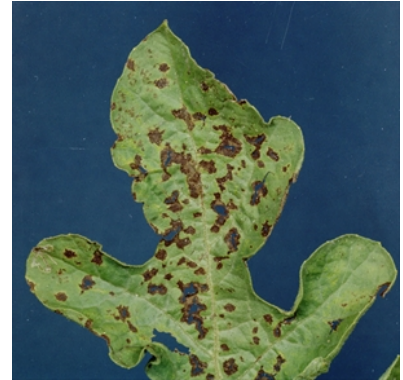


Photo 1. Angular brown spots on the leaf of watermelon, caused by the anthracnose fungus, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*.



Photo 2. Round and oval light brown spots showing 'shot-hole' symptom on cucumber, caused by the anthracnose fungus, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*.



Photo 4. Sunken spots on cucumber caused by anthracnose, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*.



Photo 5. Sunken spots on cucumber caused by anthracnose, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*, clearly showing pinkish sporulation of the fungus in the centres of the spots.

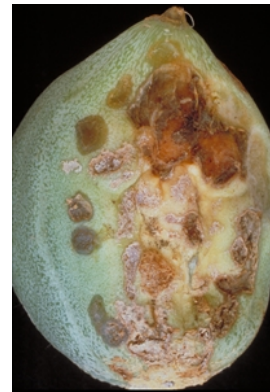


Photo 3. Large spots of cucurbit anthracnose, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*, on melon, showing the greyish water-soaked spots (lower left), and the brown older spots (top right) that are joining together and developing into an extensive rot.

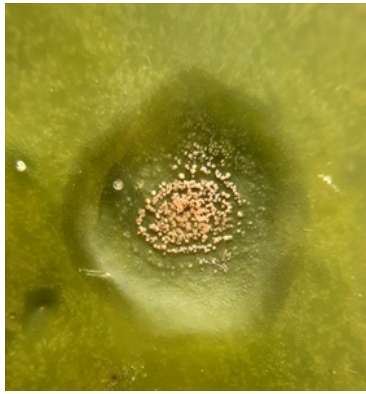


Photo 6. Close-up of a single spot from Photo 5 showing the fungal structures bursting through the skin of the cucumber and producing clumps of spores many of which are merging with each other.

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Information from Harris M (2014) *Colletotrichum orbiculare* (anthracnose of cucurbits). BugwoodWiki. ([https://wiki.bugwood.org/Colletotrichum_orbiculare_\(anthracnose_of_cucurbits\)](https://wiki.bugwood.org/Colletotrichum_orbiculare_(anthracnose_of_cucurbits))); and Cucurbits, Anthracnose (undated) The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment. University of Massachusetts Amherst. (<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/cucurbits-anthracnose>); and from CABI (2019) *Colletotrichum orbiculare* (anthracnose of cucurbits). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/14917>). Photos 1 Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Kohler F, et al. (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Photo 4 Charles Averre, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org.

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