

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.

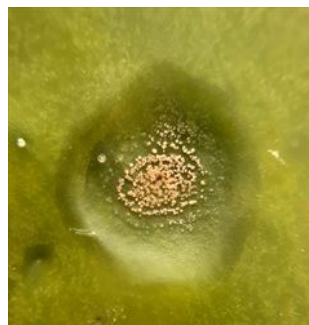


Photo 6. Close-up of a single spot from Photo 5 showing the fungal structures bursting through the skin of the

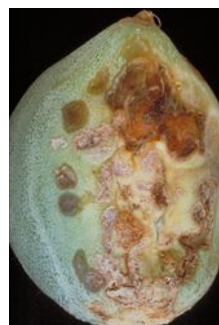


Photo 3. Large spots of cucurbit anthracnose, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*, on melon, showing the greyish water-soaked spots (lower left), and the brown older spots (top right) that are joining together and developing into an extensive rot.

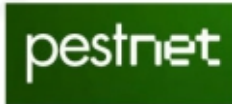
cucumber and producing clumps of
spores many of which are merging with
each other.

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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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