PEST MANAGEMENT DECISION GUIDE: GREEN AND YELLOW LIST

Cercospora fruit spot of Avocado

Pseudocercospora purpurea

Avocado fruit showing a lesion caused by *Pseudocercospora purpurea* (A. A. Seif, icipe)

Prevention

- Windy and rainy conditions favor the fungus, so shield the orchard with windbreakers. Maintain proper sanitation to get rid of insects that also spread the disease
- If previously infested, avoid intercropping the orchard with bean, beetroot, capsicum, okra, carrot and coffee which are alternative hosts of the disease
- Remove dead twigs and branches as they can host the fungus in readiness for attack
- Remove all fallen fruits from the surroundings as they harbour insects that transmit the fungus

Monitoring

- Look for small irregular light-yellow spots (less than 2.5 mm) on fruits which later become reddish brown eventually becoming hard, then cracking especially during humid conditions and high temperatures.
- Check leaves for brown to purple 2.5mm spots, each surrounded by a yellow halo. During the rainy season, a hand lens can observe greyish spore masses on the surface of the angular spots. These spots may join to form irregular areas of brown tissue.
- Twigs and fruit pedicels may have dark brown to black irregular lesions (2–10 mm), causing premature fruit fall

Direct Control

- Prevention is the surest way to manage Cercospora fruit spot
- Remove diseased leaves and fruits from the field and dispose in a two -feet deep pit
- Disinfect farm implements with Jik (500ml / 20L water) after working in one field, before moving to another

Direct Control | Restrictions

Direct Control	Restrictions
• Alternate the chemicals to avoid resistance build up.	
• Fungicides may only prevent further spread of the disease and cannot cure the crop once infected.	
• Avoid spraying chemicals during the harvesting/ ripening stage	
• Thiophanate-Methyl (Topsin M,Topnet, Topguard, Alert) Frac. B1. Thiophanates	• WHO class U. Foliar spray Unlikely to present acute health hazard in normal use. Max. 3 applications. Interval 10 days Do not spray on fruits
• Captan (Merpan,Captan) Frac M4 phthalimide	• WHO class U. Not to be applied on fruits. Moderately harmful to pollinators so avoid spraying during flowering or during daytime hours. Toxic to fish, avoid use near water bodies. Max 3 applications,10 days interval
• Copper oxychloride (Cuprocafaro,Green Cop,Primer,Trinity Gold,colonizer) FRAC M3. Dithiorcarbamates	• WHO class II. Maximum of two applications, 14 days interval.Toxic to fish,Avoid spraying near water bodies, Harmful to earthworms.Reduce number of applications to avoid soil accumulation
• Copper Hydroxide. (Vitra, Champflo), FRAC M3	• WHO class II.Maximum of two applications,14 days intervals

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