

1. Diseases of Rice

Fungal Diseases

Blast-*Pyricularia oryzae* (Syn: *P. grisea*) (Sexual stage: *Magnaporthe grisea*)

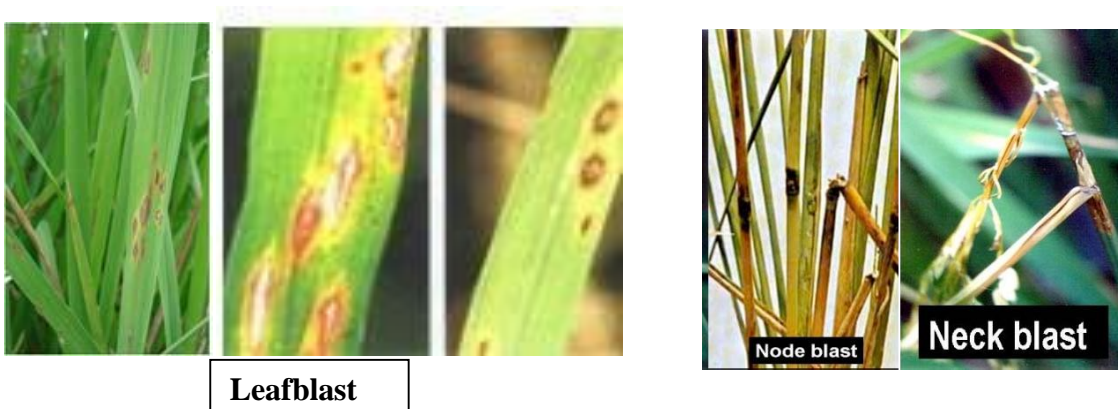
Symptoms

The fungus attacks the crop at all stages of crop growth. Symptoms appear on leaves, nodes, rachis, and glumes. On the leaves, the lesions appear as small bluish green flecks, which enlarge under moist weather to form the characteristic spindle shaped spots with grey centre and dark brown margin (**Leaf blast**).

The spots coalesce as the disease progresses and large areas of the leaves dry up and wither. Spots also appear on sheath. Severely infected nursery and field appear as burnt. Black lesions appear on nodes girdling them. The affected nodes may break up and all the plant parts above the infected nodes may die (**nodal blast**).

During flower emergence, the fungus attacks the peduncle and the lesion turns to brownish-black which is referred to as rotten neck / neck rot / panicle blast (**neck blast**).

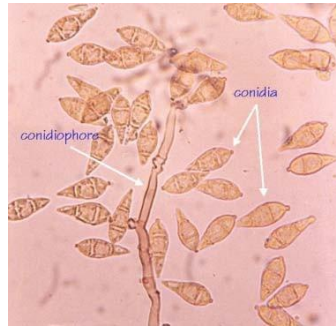
In early neck infection, grain filling does not occur while in late infection, partial grain filling occurs. Small brown to black spots may also be observed on glumes of the heavily infected panicles. The pathogen causes yield losses ranging from 30-61 per cent depending upon the stages of infection.



Pathogen

The mycelium is hyaline to olivaceous and septate. Conidia are produced in clusters on long septate, olivaceous conidiophores. Conidia are pyriform to ellipsoid, attached at the broader base by a hilum. Conidia are hyaline to pale olive green, usually 3-celled. The perfect state of the

fungus is *M. grisea* producing perithecia. The ascospores are hyaline, fusiform, 4-celled and slightly curved.



Conidia and Conidiophore of
P. grisea

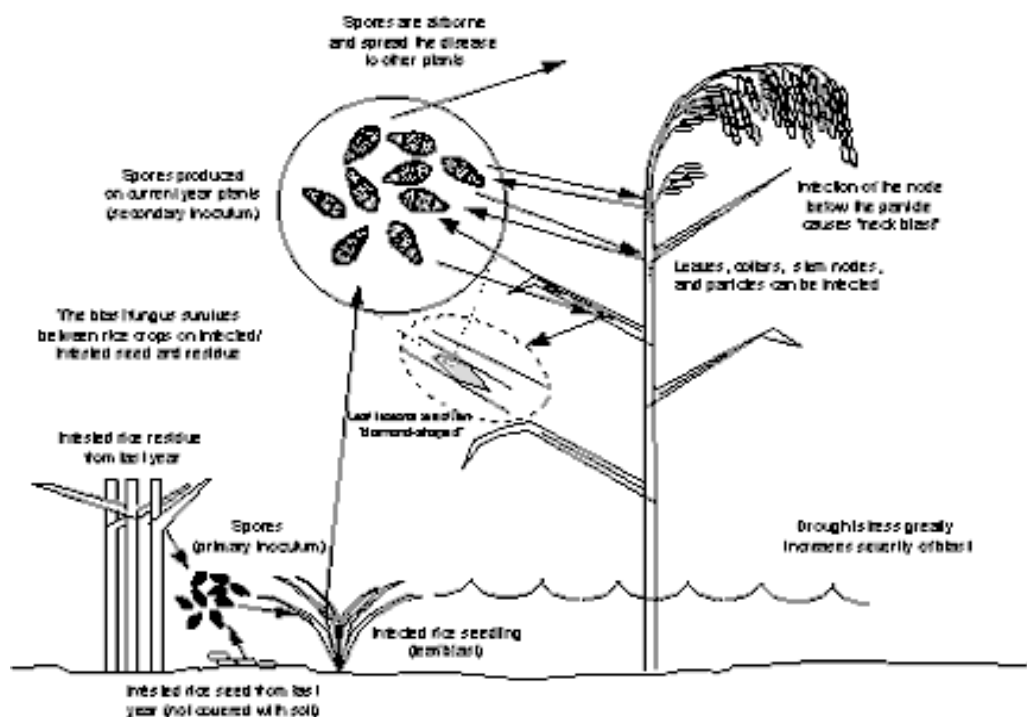
Favourable Conditions

- Intermittent drizzles, cloudy weather, more of rainy days, longer duration of dew and high relative humidity (93-99 per cent).
- Low night temperature (between 15-20°C or less than 26°C).
- Availability of collateral hosts and excess dose of nitrogen.

Forecast for rice blast can be made on the basis of minimum night temperature range of 20-26°C in association with a high relative humidity of 90 percent and above lasting for a period of a week or more during any of the three susceptible phases of crop growth, viz., seedling stage, post-transplanting tillering stage and neck emergence stage. In Japan, the first leaf blast forecasting model was developed named as BLAST. Later several other models have also been developed namely, PYRICULARIA, PYRIVIEW, BLASTAM, EPIBLA and PBLAST. **Disease Cycle**

The disease spreads primarily through airborne conidia since spores of the fungus are present throughout the year. Mycelium and conidia in the infected straw and seeds are major sources of inoculum. Irrigation water may carry the conidia to different fields. The fungus also survives on collateral hosts viz., Panicum repens, Digitaria marginata, Brachiaria mutica, Leersia hexandra and Echinochloa crusgalli.

Spores land on leaves, germinate, penetrate the leaf, and cause a lesion 4 days later; more spores are produced in as little as 6 days. Infections from spores arriving from a distance are termed primary infections.



Primary infections generally result in a few widely scattered spots on leaves. Spores arising from the primary infections are capable of causing many more infections. This cycling is called secondary spread. Secondary spread is responsible for the severe epidemics of blast in fields and localized areas.

Management

- Grow resistant to moderately resistant varieties CO47, IR 20, ADT36, ADT39, ASD 18 and IR64. Avoid cultivation of highly susceptible varieties viz., IR50 and TKM6 in disease favourable season.
- Remove and destroy the weed hosts in the field bunds and channels.
- Treat the seeds with [Captan](#) or [Thiram](#) or [Carbendazim](#) or [Tricyclazole](#) at 2 g/kg. or [Pseudomonas fluorescens](#) @ 10g/kg of seed. Spray the nursery with carbendazim 500mg/L or tricyclazole 300mg/L.

- Spray the main field with [Edifenphos](#) 500 ml or [Carbendazim](#) 500 g or [Tricyclazole](#) 500g or [Iprobenphos](#) (IBP) 500 ml /ha.

Brown Spot - [Helminthosporium oryzae](#) (Syn: [Drechslera oryzae](#); [Bipolaris oryzae](#))

(Sexual stage: [Cochliobolus miyabeanus](#))

Symptoms

The fungus attacks the crop from seedling to milky stage in main field. Symptoms appear as minute spots on the coleoptile, leaf blade, leaf sheath, and glume, being most prominent on the leaf blade and glumes.



Leaf symptoms

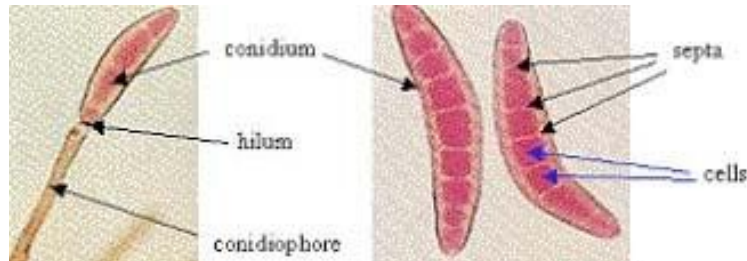


Glume infection

The spots become cylindrical or oval, dark brown with [yellow halo](#) later becoming circular. Several spots coalesce and the leaf dries up. The seedlings die and affected nurseries can be often recognised from a distance by scorched appearance. Dark brown or black spots also appear on glumes leading to grain discoloration. It causes failure of seed germination, seedling mortality and reduces the grain quality and weight.

Pathogen

Bipolaris oryzae produces brown septate mycelium. Conidiophores arise singly or in small groups. They are geniculate, brown in colour. Conidia are usually curved with a bulged center and tapered ends. They are pale to golden brown in colour and are 6-14 septate. The perfect stage of the fungus is *C. miyabeanus*.



It produces perithecia with ascic containing 6-15 septate, filamentous or long cylindrical, hyaline to pale olive green ascospores. The fungus produces terpenoid phytotoxins called ophiobolin A (or Cochliobolin A), ophiobolin B (or cochliobolin B) and ophiobolin I. Ophiobolin A is most toxic. These breakdown the protein fragment of cell wall resulting in partial disruption of integrity of cell.



Coidia and Conidiophore

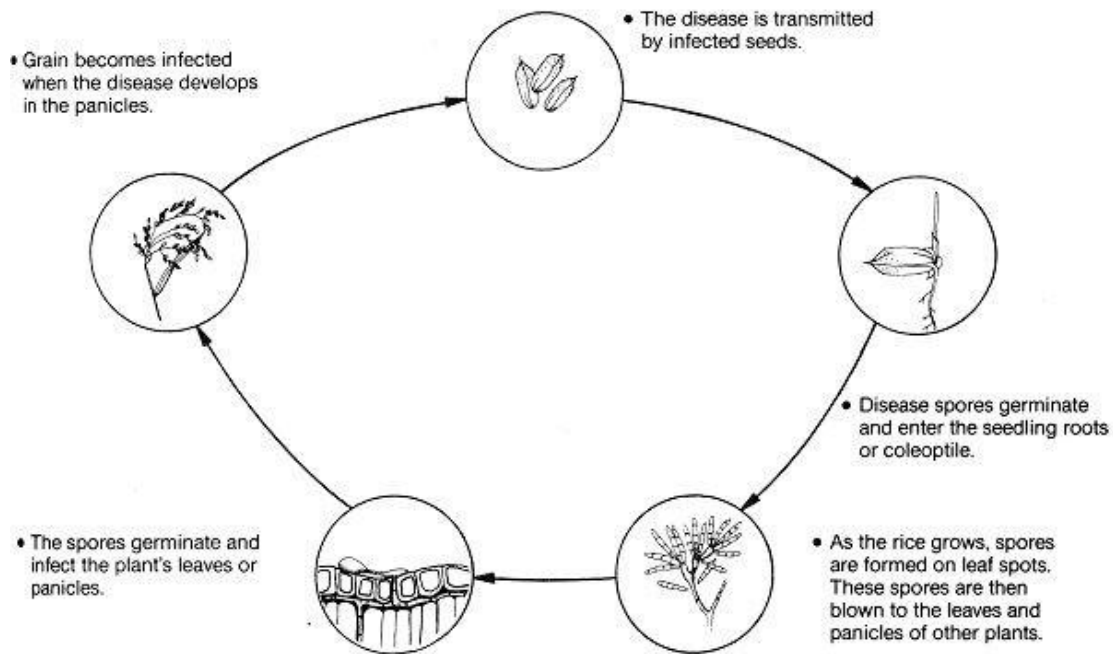
Favourable Conditions

- Temperature of 25-30°C with relative humidity above 80 percent are highly favourable.
- Excess of nitrogen aggravates the disease severity.

Disease Cycle

Infected seeds and stubbles are the most common source of primary infection.

The conidia present on infected grain and mycelium in the infected tissue are viable for 2 to 3 years. Airborne conidia infect the plants both in nursery and in main field.



The fungus also survives on collateral hosts like *Leersia hexandra* and *Echinochloa colonum*. The brown spot fungus is normally present in areas with a long history of rice culture. Airborne spores that are capable of causing infection are reproduced in infested debris and older lesions.

Management

- Field sanitation-removal of collateral hosts and infected debris from the field.
- Use of slow release nitrogenous fertilizers is advisable.
- Grow tolerant varieties viz., Co44 and Bhavani.
- Use disease free seeds.
- Treat the seeds with Thiram or Captan at 4 g/kg. Spray the nursery with Edifenphos 40ml or Mancozeb 80 g for 20 cent nursery.
- Spray the crop in the main field with Edifenphos 500ml or Mancozeb 2kg/ha when the grain reaches 3. If needed repeat after 15 days.

Narrow brown leafspot - *Cercospora jenseana* (Sexual stage: *Sphaerulina oryzae*) Symptoms

The fungus produces short, linear brown spots mostly on leaves and also on sheaths, pedicels and glumes. The spots appear in large numbers during later stages of crop growth.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Conidiophores are produced in groups and brown in colour. *Conidia* are hyaline or subhyaline, cylindrical and 3-5 septate.

Management

Spray *Carbendazim* 500 g or *Mancozeb* 2 kg/ha.

Sheath rot - *Sarocladium oryzae* (Syn: *Acrocyndrium oryzae*)

Symptoms

Initial symptoms are noticed only on the upper most leaf sheath enclosing young panicles. The flag leaf sheath shows oblong or irregular greyish brown spots. They enlarge and develop grey centres and brown margins covering major portions of the leaf sheath.

The young *panicles* remain within the sheath or emerge partially. The *panicles rot* and abundant whitish powdery fungal growth is seen inside the leaf sheath.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces whitish, sparsely branched, septate mycelium. [Conidia](#) are hyaline, smooth, single celled and cylindrical in shape.

Favourable Conditions

- Closer planting
- High doses of nitrogen
- High humidity and temperature around 25-30°C
- Injuries made by leaf folder, brown plant hopper and mites increase infection

Disease Cycle

The disease spreads mainly through air-borne [conidia](#) and also [seed-borne](#). Primary source of [inoculum](#) is by means of infected plant debris. Secondary spread is by means of air borne conidia produced on the leaf sheath.

Management

- Spray [Carbendazim](#) 500g or [Edifenphos](#) 1L or [Mancozeb](#) 2 kg/ha at boot leaf stage and 15 days later.
- Soil application of [gypsum](#) (500 kg/ha) in two splits.
- Application of [Neem Seed Kernel Extract](#) (NSKE) 5% or neem oil 3 % or [Ipomoea](#) or [Prosopis](#) leaf powder extract 25 Kg/ha. First spray at boot leaf stage and second 15 days later.

Sheath blight - [Rhizoctonia solani](#) (Sexual stage: [Thanetophorus cucumeris](#))

Symptoms

The fungus affects the crop from [tillering](#) to heading stage. Initial symptoms are noticed on leaf sheaths near water level. On the leaf sheath oval or [elliptical](#) or irregular greenish grey spots are formed. As the spots enlarge, the centre becomes greyish white with an irregular blackish brown or purple brown border.

[Lesions](#) on the upper parts of plants extend rapidly coalescing with each other to cover entire tillers from the water line to the flag leaf. The presence of several large lesions on a leaf sheath usually causes death of the whole leaf, and in severe cases all the leaves of a plant may be blighted

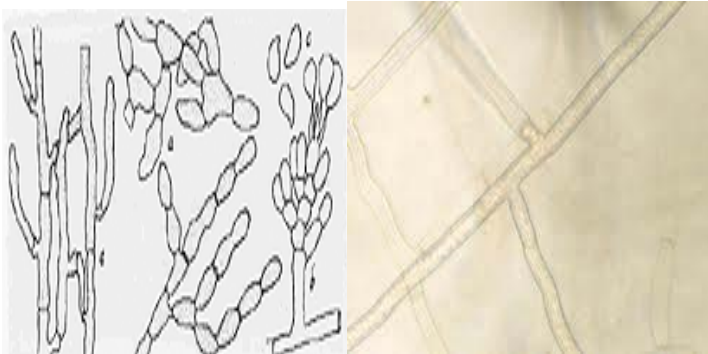


Symptoms

The infection extends to the inner sheaths resulting in death of the entire plant. Older plants are highly susceptible. Plants heavily infected in the early heading and grain filling growth stages produce poorly filled grain, especially in the lower part of the panicle.

Pathogen

The fungus produces septate [mycelium](#) which are [hyaline](#) when young, yellowish brown when old. It produces large number of spherical brown [sclerotia](#).

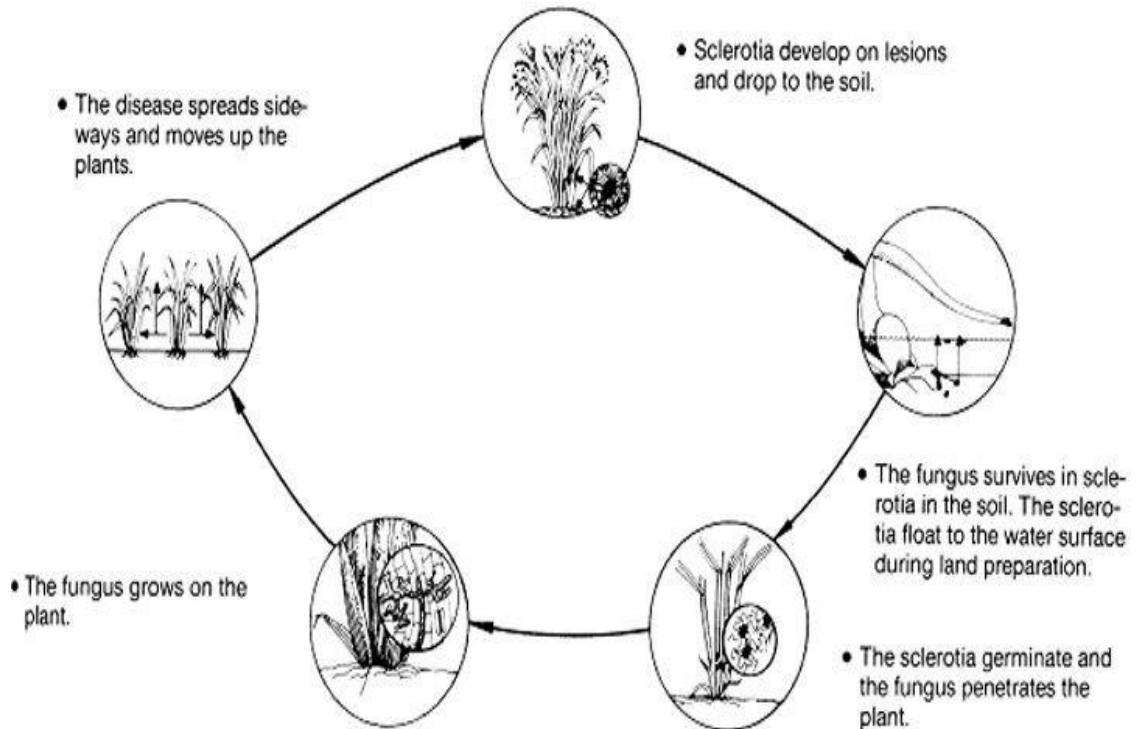


Favourable Conditions

- High relative humidity (96-97 per cent), high temperature (30-32°C).
- Closer planting.
- Heavy doses of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Disease cycle

The pathogen can survive as [sclerotia](#) or mycelium in dry soil for about 20 months but for 5-8 months in moist soil. Sclerotia spread through irrigation water. The fungus has a wide host range.



Management

- Grow resistant varieties like Mansarovar, Swarau Dhan, Pankaj etc.
- Apply [organic amendments](#) viz., [neem cake](#) @ 150 Kg/ha or FYM 12.5 tons/ha. Avoid flow of irrigation water from infected fields to healthy fields.
- Deep [ploughing](#) in summer and burning of stubbles.
- Spray [Carbendazim](#) 500 g/ha
- Soil application of [P.fluorescens](#) @ of 2.5 kg/ha after 30 days of transplanting (product should be mixed with 50 kg of FYM/Sand and applied).
- Foliar spray [P.fluorescens](#) at 0.2% at boot leaf stage and 10 days later

Falsesmut - [Ustilaginoidea virens](#) (Syn: *Clavicepsoryzae-sativa*)

Symptoms

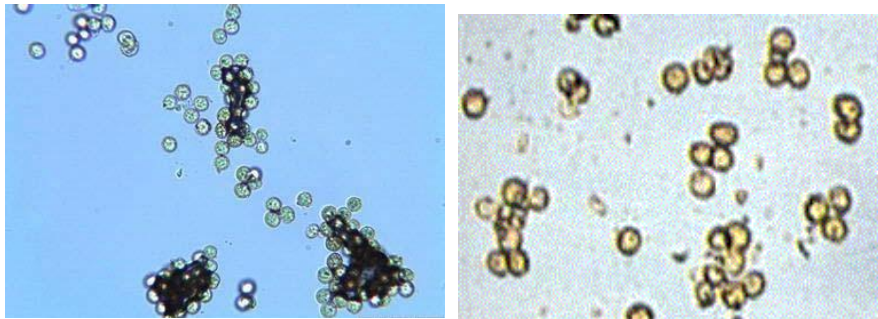
The fungus transforms [individual ovaries/grains into greenish spore balls](#) of velvety appearance. Only a few [spikelets](#) in a panicle are affected.



Symptoms

Pathogen

[Chlamydospores](#) are formed as spore balls which are spherical to elliptical, warty and olivaceous.



Spore balls

Disease Cycle

Grasses and wild rice species are [alternate hosts](#). The main source of inoculum is [air-borne spores](#). [Ascospores](#) produced from [sclerotia](#) act as primary source of infection while [chlamydospores](#) are secondary source of infection. [Chlamydospores](#) are air - borne, abundant at heading stage.

Favorable conditions

- Rainfall and cloudy weather during flowering and maturity

Udbattadisease-[Ephelisoryzae](#)(Sexualstage:[Balansiaoryzae-sativa](#))

Symptoms

Symptoms appear at the time of panicle emergence. The entire ear head is converted into a straight compact [cylindrical](#) black [spike](#)like structure since the infected panicle is matted together by the fungal mycelium. The spikelets are cemented to the central rachis and the size is remarkably reduced. The entire spike is covered by greyish [stroma](#)with convex [pycnidia](#)immersed inside.



Pathogen

Symptoms

[Pycnidiospores](#)are hyaline, needle shaped and 4-5 celled.

Management

- The pathogen is internally seed borne.
- Hot water seed treatment at 45°C for 10 min. effectively control the disease.
- Removal of collateral hosts [Isachne elegans](#), [Eragrostis tenuifolia](#) and [Cynadondactylon](#).

Stackburndisease-[Trichoconispadwickii](#)(Syn:[Alternariapadwickii](#))

Symptoms

Leaves and ripening grains are affected. On leaves circular to [oval](#) spots with dark brown margins are formed. The center of the spot turns light brown or white with numerous minute dots. On the [glumes](#) reddish brown spots appear. The [kernels](#) may [shrive](#)l and become [brittle](#).



Symptoms

Pathogen

Conidia are elongated with a long beak at the tip, 3 to 5 septate, thick walled and constricted at the septa.

Management

- Treat the seeds with Thiram or Captan or Mancozeb at 2g/kg.
- Hot water treatment at 54°C for 15 minutes is also effective.
- Burn the stubbles and straw in the field.

Bunt or Kernel Smut or black smut - Tilletia barclayana

Minute black pustules or streaks are formed on the grains which burst open at the time of ripening. The grains may be partially or entirely replaced by the fungal spores. The sorus pushes the glumes apart exposing the black mass of spores. Only a few flowers are infected in an inflorescence. The fungus survives as chlamydospores for one or more years under normal condition and 3 years in stored grains.

Stem rot – *Sclerotium oryzae* (Sexual stage: *Magnaporthe salvinii*)

Symptoms

Small [black lesions are formed on the outer leaf sheath](#) and they enlarge and reach the inner leaf sheath also. The affected tissues rot and abundant small black [sclerotia](#) are seen in the rotting tissues. The [culm](#) collapses and plants lodge. The [sclerotia](#) are carried in stubbles after harvest.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Whiteto greyish [hyphae, spherical](#) black and [shiny sclerotia](#), visible to naked eyes as black masses.

Favourable Conditions

- [Infestation](#) of leaf hoppers and stem borer.
- High doses of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Disease Cycle

The [sclerotia](#) survive in stubbles and [straw](#) those are carried through irrigation water. The fungus over winters and survives for long periods as sclerotia in the upper layers (2-3 inches) of the soil profile. The half-life of [sclerotia](#) in the field is about 2 years. Viable sclerotia have been found in fields for up to 6 years after a rice crop. The sclerotia are [buoyant](#) and [float](#) to the surface of floodwater where they contact, germinate, and infect rice tillers near the water line.

Management

- Deep ploughing in summer and burning stubbles to [eliminate](#) sclerotia.

- Use of balanced application of fertilizer.
- Avoid flow of irrigation water from infected to healthy fields.
- Draining irrigation water and letting soil to dry.

Foot rot or Bakanae disease - *Fusarium moniliforme* (Sexual stage: *Gibberella fujikuroi*)

Symptoms

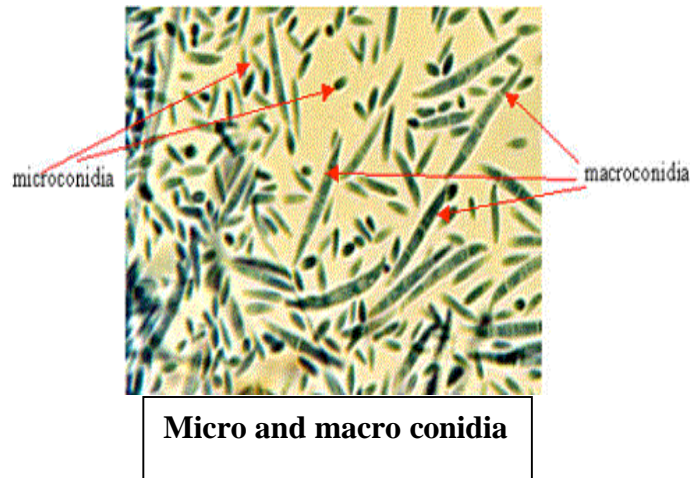
Infected seedlings in nursery are lean and lanky, much taller and die after some time. In the main field, the affected plants have tall lanky tillers with longer internodes and aerial adventitious roots from the nodes above ground level. The root system is fibrous and bushy. The plants are killed before earhead formation or they produce only sterile spikelets. When the culm is split open white mycelial growth can be seen.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Fungus produces both macroconidia and microconidia. Microconidia are hyaline, single celled and oval. Macroconidia are slightly sickle shaped, and two to five celled. The fungus produces the phytotoxin, fusaric acid, which is non-host specific.



Management

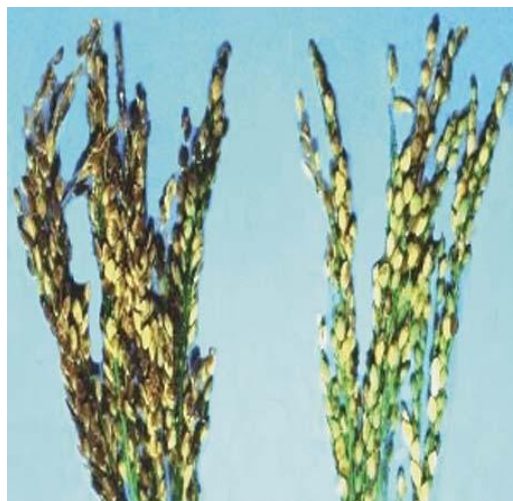
- The fungus is externally seed-borne.
- Treat the seeds with [Thiram](#) or [Captan](#) or [Carbendazim](#) at 2 g/kg.

Grain discolouration - [Drechslera oryzae](#), [D. rostratum](#), [D.tetramera](#), [Curvularialunata](#), [Trichoconispadwickii](#), [Sarocladium oryzae](#), [Alternaria tenuis](#), [Fusarium moniliforme](#), [Cladosporium herbarum](#), [Epicoccumpurpurascens](#), [Cephalosporium sp.](#), [Phoma sp.](#), [Nigrospora sp.](#)

Symptoms

The grains may be infected by various organisms before or after harvesting causing discoloration, the extent of which varies according to season and locality. The infection may be external or internal causing discoloration of the glumes or kernels or both. Dark brown or black spots appear on the grains.

The discoloration may be red, yellow, orange, pink or black, depending upon the organism involved and the degree of infection. This disease is responsible for quantitative and qualitative losses of grains.



Symptoms

Favourable Conditions

- High humidity and cloudy weather during heading stage

Disease cycle

The disease spreads mainly through air-borne [conidia](#) and the fungus survives as [parasite](#) and [saprophyte](#) in the infected grains, plant debris and also on other crop debris.

Management

- Pre and post-harvest measures should be taken into account for prevention of grain discoloration.
- Spray the crop at boot leaf stage and at 50% flowering with [Carbendazim](#) + [Mancozeb](#) (1:1) @ 0.2%.
- Store the grains with 13.5-14% moisture content.

Bacterial Diseases

Bacterial leaf blight- [Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae](#)

Symptoms

The disease is usually noticed at the time of heading but it can occur earlier also. Seedlings in the nursery show circular, yellow spots in the margin, that enlarge, coalesce leading to drying of foliage. “[Kresek](#)” symptom is seen in seedlings, 1-2 weeks after transplanting. The bacteria enter through the cut wounds in the leaf tips, become systemic and cause death of entire seedling.



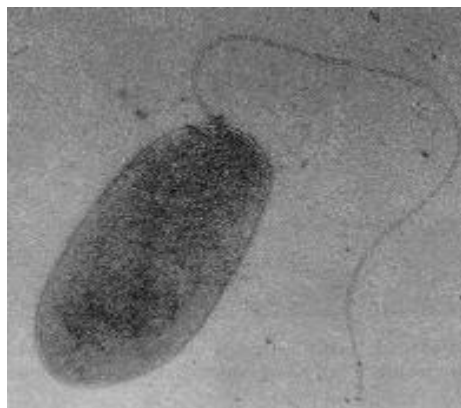
Krekesymptom

Leaf blight symptom

In grown up plants water soaked, translucent lesions appear near the leaf margin. The [lesions](#) enlarge both in length and width with a wavy margin and turn straw yellow within a few days, covering the entire leaf. As the disease advances, the lesions cover the entire lamina which turns white or straw coloured. Milky or [opaque](#) dew drops containing bacterial masses are formed on young lesions in the early morning. They dry up on the surface leaving a white encrustation. The affected grains have discoloured spots. If the cut end of leaf is dipped in water, it becomes turbid because of bacterial ooze.

Pathogen

The bacterium is [aerobic](#), gram negative, non spore forming, rod with size ranging from 1-2 x 0.8-1.0 μ m with [monotrichous](#) polar flagellum. Bacterial colonies are circular, convex with entire margins, whitish yellow to straw yellow colored and opaque.



Bacterium

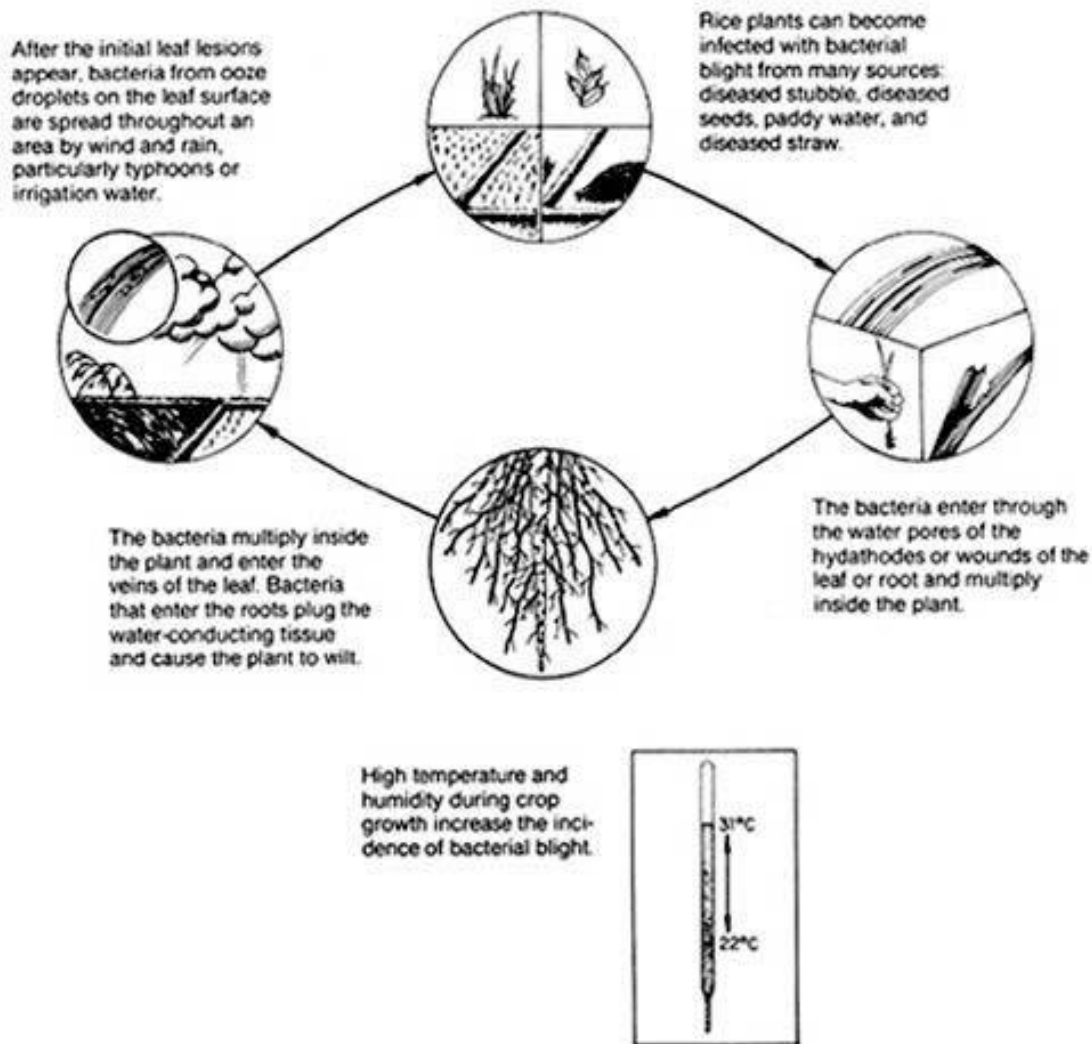
Favorable Conditions

- Clipping of tip of the seedling at the time of transplanting

- Heavy rain, heavy dew, flooding, deep irrigation water
- Severe wind and temperature of 25-30 C
- Application of excessive nitrogen, especially late top dressing

Disease Cycle

The infected seeds as a source of inoculum may not be important since the bacteria decrease rapidly and die in the course of seed soaking. The pathogen survives in soil and in the infected stubbles and on collateral hosts *Leersia* spp., *Plantago major*, *Paspalum dictum*, and *Cyanodondactylon*. The pathogen spreads through irrigation water and also through rain storms.



Management

- Burn the stubbles.
- Use optimum dose of fertilizers.
- Avoid clipping of tip of seedling at the time of transplanting.
- Avoid flooded conditions. Remove weed hosts.
- Grow resistant cultivars IR20 and TKM6.
- Spray [Streptomycin sulphate](#) and [tetracycline](#) combination 300g + Copper oxychloride 1.25 Kg/ha.

Bacterial leaf streak - [Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae](#)

Symptoms

Fine [translucent streaks](#) are formed on the veins and the lesions enlarge lengthwise and infect larger veins and turn brown. On the surface of the lesions, bacterial ooze out and form small yellow band-like exudates under humid conditions. In severe cases the leaves dry up.

Management

- Burn the stubbles.
- Use optimum dose of fertilizers.
- Avoid clipping of tip of seedling at the time of transplanting.
- Avoid flooded conditions.
- Remove weed hosts. Grow resistant cultivars IR20 and TKM6.
- Spray [Streptomycin sulphate](#) and [tetracycline](#) combination 300g + Copper oxychloride 1.25 Kg/ha.

Viral Diseases

Rice Tungro Disease (RTD) - [Rice tungro bacilliform virus \(RTBV\)](#) and [Rice tungro spherical virus \(RTSV\)](#)

Symptoms

Infection occurs both in the nursery and main field. Plants are markedly stunted. Leaves show yellow to orange discoloration and interveinal [chlorosis](#). Young leaves are sometimes mottled while rust spots appear on older leaves. Tillering is reduced with poor root system.

Panicles not formed in very early infection, if formed, remains small with few, deformed and chaffy grains.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Two morphologically unrelated viruses present in phloem cells. [Rice tungro bacilliform virus \(RTBV\)](#) bacilliform capsid, circular [ds DNA](#) genome and [Rice tungro spherical virus \(RTSV\)](#) isometric capsid [ss RNA](#) genome.

Disease Cycle

Transmission mainly by the leaf hopper vector *Nephotettix virescens* Males, females and nymphs of the insect can transmit the disease. Both the particles are transmitted [semi-persistently](#), in the vector the particles are [noncirculative](#) and [nonpropagative](#). Plants infected with RTSV alone may be symptomless or exhibit only mild stunting. RTBV enhances the symptoms caused by RTSV. RTSV can be acquired from the infected plant independently of RTBV, but [acquisition](#) of RTBV is dependent on RTSV which acts as a helper virus. Both the viruses thrive in rice and several weed hosts which serve as source of inoculum for the next. Ratoon from infected rice stubble serve as reservoirs of the virus. Disease incidence depends on rice cultivars, time of planting, time of infection and presence of vectors and favorable weather conditions

Management

- Field sanitation, removal of weed hosts of the virus and vectors.
- Grow disease tolerant cultivars like Pankhari203, BM66, BM68, Latisail, Ambemohar102, Kamod253, IR50 and Co45.
- Control the vectors in the nursery by application of [Carbofuran](#) 170g/cent 10 days after sowing to control hoppers.
- Spray [Phosphomidan](#) 500ml or [Monocrotophos](#) 1lit/ha (2ml/litre) or Neemoil 3% or NSKE 5% to control the vector in the main field 15 and 30 days after transplanting.
- Set up light traps to monitor the vector population.

Rice Grassy stunt disease - [Rice grassy stunt tenuivirus](#)

Symptoms

Plants are markedly [stunted](#) with excessive tillering and an erect growth habit. Leaves become narrow, pale green with small rust spots. May produce a few small panicles which bear dark brown unfilled grains.



Symptoms

Pathogen

[Rice grassy stunt tenuivirus](#), flexuous, filamentous 950-1350nm long x 6nm wide, ssRNA genome

Disease Cycle

Disease spreads by the brown plant hopper, [Nilaparvata lugens](#), in a [persistent](#) manner having a latent period of 5 to 28 days in the vector. Ratoon crop and presence of vector [perpetuate](#) the disease from one crop to other.

Ricedwarf– [Rice dwarf virus](#)

Symptoms

Infected plants show stunted growth, reduced tillering and root system. Leaves show [chlorotic specks](#) turning to streaks along the veins. In early stage of infection no ear heads formed.

Pathogen

- The virus is spherical, 70nm diameter with an envelope, [dsRNA](#) genome.

Disease Cycle

Spreads by leafhopper feeding by [Nephotettix cincticeps](#), [Reclia dorsalis](#) and [N. nigropictus](#) in a persistent manner. The transmission is [transovarial](#) through eggs. Gramineous weeds [Echinochloa crusgalli](#) and [Panicum miliaceum](#) serve as source of inoculum. **Management**

- Destroy weed host that serve as source of inoculum
- Spray [Phosphamidon](#) or [Fenthion](#) 500 ml or [Monocrotophos](#) 1 lit/ha.

Rice ragged stunt disease – [Rice ragged stunt virus](#)

Symptoms

- Formation of ragged leaves with irregular margins, vein swelling, [enations](#) on leaf veins may be formed
- Stunting of plants, delayed flowering, production of nodal branches and incomplete emergence of panicles.



Symptoms

Pathogen

- [Spherical](#) virus ([Figivirus](#)), 65nm diameter, [dsRNA](#) genome

Disease Cycle

Spread through brown planthopper, [Nilaparvata lugens](#) transmitted in a [persistent](#) manner.

Multiplies in the vector, [latent period](#) of 3 to 35 days, but not transmitted congenitally **Rice yellow dwarf disease – *Rice yellow dwarf virus***

Symptoms

Prominent stunting of plants and excessive tillering are the characteristic symptoms of the disease. Leaves yellowish green to whitish green, become soft and droop. Plants usually remain sterile but sometimes may produce small panicles with unfilled grains.



Symptoms

Pathogen

- Caused by a [phytoplasma](#) (rice yellow dwarf phytoplasma designated as a novel taxon, '*Candidatus Phytoplasma oryzae*')

Disease Cycle

The disease is transmitted by leafhopper vectors *Nephotettix sp. Nephotettix* with a [latent period](#) of 25-30 days in the vector. The pathogen survives on several grass weeds.

Management

- Deep ploughing during summer months and burning of stubbles.
- Rice varieties IR62 and IR64 are moderately resistant to the disease.
- The management practices followed for Rice Tungro disease holds good for this disease also.

2. Diseases of Sorghum

Downy Mildew - *Peronosclerosporasorghi*

Symptoms

The fungus causes systemic downy mildew of sorghum. It invades the growing points of young plants, either through oospore or conidial infection. As the leaves unfold they exhibit green or yellow colouration. Abundant downy white growth is produced on the lower surface of the leaves, which consists of sporangiophores and sporangia.

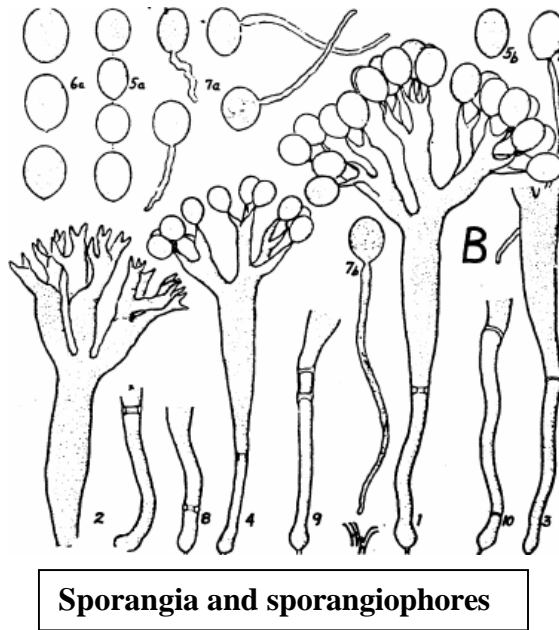


Symptoms

Normally three or four leaves develop the chlorotic downy growth. Subsequent leaves show progressively more of a complete bleaching of the leaf tissue in streaks or stripes. As the infected bleached leaves mature they become necrotic and the interveinal tissues disintegrate, releasing the resting spores (oospores) and leaving the vascular bundles loosely connected to give the typical shredded leaf symptom.

Pathogen

P. sorghi is an obligate parasite systemic in young plant. The mycelium is intercellular, non-septate. Sporangiophores emerge through the stomata in single or in clusters which are stout and dichotomously branched. Spores are single celled, hyaline, globose and thin walled. Oospores are spherical, thick walled and deep brown in colour.

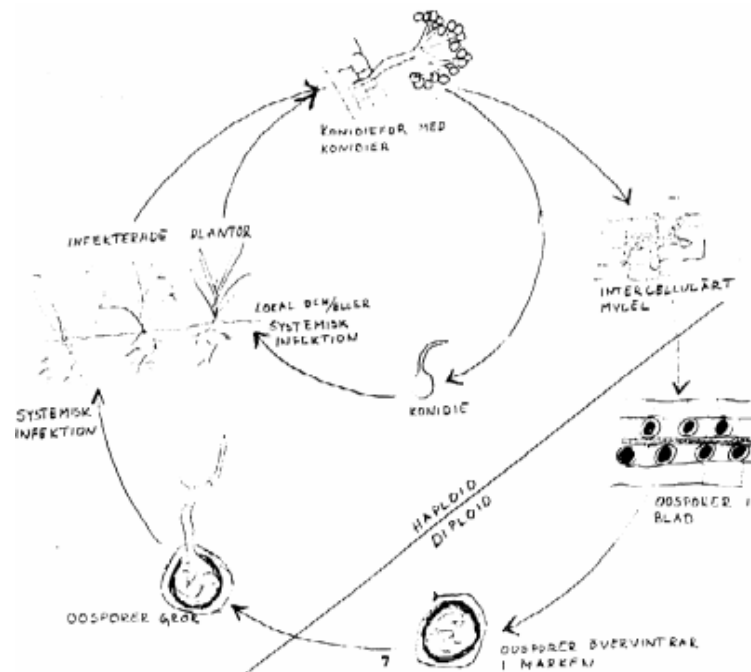


Favourable Conditions

- Maximum sporulation takes place at 100 percent relative humidity.
- Optimum temperature for sporulation is 21-23°C during night.
- Light drizzling accompanied by cool weather is highly favourable.

Disease Cycle

The primary infection is by means of oospores present in the soil which germinate and initiate the systemic infection. [Oospores](#) persist in the soil for several years. Secondary spread is by air-borne [sporangia](#). Presence of mycelium of the fungus in the seeds of systemically infected plants is also a source of infection. The disease has been known to occur through a [collateral host](#), [Heteropogon tortuosus](#) on which the fungus perpetuates of the host. The breakdown of tissue causes shredding. The oospores either fall to the soil or are wind blown, often within host tissue. They can remain viable in the soil for 5-10 years. [Conidia](#) are formed at night in large numbers. The optimum temperature for production is 20-23°C.



Management

- [Crop rotation](#) with other crops viz., pulses and oilseeds.
- Avoid the secondary spread of the disease by roguing out the infected plants since the wind plays a major role in the secondary spread of the disease.
- Grow moderately resistant varieties like Co25 and Co26.
- Seed treatment with [Metalaxyl](#) at 6 g/kg of seed.
- Spray [Metalaxyl](#) 500 g or [Mancozeb](#) 2 kg or [Ziram](#) 1 kg or [Zineb](#) 1 kg/ha.

Leafblight-[Exerohilum turcicum](#) (Syn: [Helminthosporium turcicum](#))

[Symptoms](#)

The pathogen also causes [seed rot](#) and [seedling blight](#) of sorghum. The disease appears as small narrow elongated spots in the initial stage and in due course they extend along the length of the leaf. On older plants, the typical symptoms are long [elliptical necrotic lesions](#), straw coloured in the centre with dark margins.



Symptoms

The straw coloured centre becomes darker during sporulation. The lesions can be several centimeters long and wide. Many lesions may develop and coalesce on the leaves, destroying large areas of leaf tissue, giving the crop a burnt appearance.

Pathogen

The mycelium is localised in the infected lesion. [Conidiophores](#) emerge through stomata and are simple, olivaceous, septate and geniculate. [Conidia](#) are [olivaceous](#) brown, 3-8 septate and thick walled.

Favourable Conditions

- Cool moist weather.
- High humidity (90 percent)
- High rainfall.

Disease cycle

The pathogen is found to persist in the infected plant debris. Seed borne conidia are responsible for seedling infection. Secondary spread is through wind-borne conidia.

Management

- Use disease free seeds.
- Treat the seeds with [Captan](#) or [Thiram](#) at 4 g/kg.
- Spray [Mancozeb](#) 1.25 kg or [Captafol](#) 1 kg/ha.

Rectangular Leaf spot - [Cercosporasorghi](#)

Symptoms

The symptoms appear as small leaf spots which enlarge to become rectangular [lesions](#) (which can be 5-15 mm long by 2 to 5 mm wide) on the leaf and leaf sheath. Usually the lower

leaves are first attacked. The lesions are typical dark red to purplish with lighter centers. The lesions are mostly isolated and limited by veins. The colour of the spots varies from red, purple, brown or dark depending upon the variety.

Pathogen

Mycelium of the fungus is hyaline and septate. Conidiophores emerge in clusters through stomata, which are brown and simple, rarely branched. Conidia are hyaline, thin walled, 2-13 celled and long obclavate.

Favourable Conditions

- Cool moist weather.
- High humidity (90 percent)
- High rainfall.

Disease cycle

The conidia survive up to 5 months. The disease spreads through air-borne and seed-borne conidia.

Management

- Use disease free seeds.
- Treat the seed with Captan or Thiram at 4 g/kg.
- Spray Mancozeb 2 kg/ha.

Anthracnose and red rot- *Colletotrichum graminicolum*

Symptoms

The fungus causes both leaf spot ([anthracnose](#)) and stalk rot ([red rot](#)). The disease appears as small red coloured spots on both surfaces of the leaf. The centre of the spot is white in colour encircled by red, purple or brown margin.





Symptoms

Numerous small black dots like [acervuli](#) are seen on the white surface of the lesions. Red rot can be characterized externally by the development of circular [cankers](#), particularly in the inflorescence. Infected stem when split open shows discoloration, which may be continuous over a large area or more generally discontinuous giving the stem a marbled appearance.

Pathogen

The mycelium of the fungus is localised in the spot. [Acervuli](#) with setae arise through epidermis. Conidia are hyaline, single celled, [vacuolate](#) and [falcate](#) in shape.



Favourable Conditions

- Continuous rain.
- Temperature of 28-30°C.
- High humidity.

Disease cycle

The disease spreads by means of seed-borne and air-borne conidia and also through the infected plant debris.

Management

- Treat the seeds with Captan or Thiram at 4 g/kg.
- Spray the crop with Mancozeb 2kg/ha.

Rust-*Puccinia purpurea*

Symptoms

The fungus affects the crop at all stages of growth. The first symptoms are small flecks on the lower leaves (purple, tan or red depending upon the cultivar). Pustules (uredosori) appear on both surfaces of leaf as purplish spots which rupture to release reddish powdery masses of uredospores. Teliopores develop later sometimes in the old uredosori or in teliosori, which are darker and longer than the uredosori. The pustules may also occur on the leaf sheaths and on the stalks of inflorescence.



Symptomson leavesand stalk

Pathogen

The uredospores are pedicellate, elliptical or oval, thin walled, echinulated and dark brown in colour. The teliospores are reddish or brown in colour and two celled, rounded at the apex with one germ pore in each cell. The teliospores germinate and produce promycelium and basidiospores. Basidiospores infect *Oxalis corniculata* (alternate host) where pycnial and aecial stages arise.

Favourable Conditions

- Low temperature of 10 to 12°C favours teliospore germination.
- A spell of rainy weather favours the onset of the disease.

Disease cycle

The uredospores survive for a short time in soil and infected debris. Presence of alternate host helps in perpetuation of the fungus.

Management

- Remove the alternate host [*Oxalis comiculata*](#).
- Spray the crop with Mancozeb at 2 kg/ha.

Grain smut/Kernel smut / Covered smut / Short smut - *Sphacelothecasorghii*

Symptoms

The [individual grains are replaced by smut sori](#). The sori are oval or cylindrical and are covered with a tough creamy skin ([peridium](#)) which often persists unbroken up to thrashing. [Ratoon](#) crops exhibit higher incidence of disease.



Symptoms

Loose smut/ kernel smut - *Sphacelothecacruenta*

Symptoms

The affected plants can be detected before the ears come out. They are shorter than the healthy plants with thinner stalks and marked tillering. The ears come out much earlier than the healthy. The glumes are [hypertrophied](#) and the [earhead gives a loose appearance](#) than healthy.

The sorus is covered by a thin membrane which ruptures very early, exposing the spores even as the head emerges from the sheath.



Symptom

Long smut - [Tolyposporiumehrenbergii](#)

Symptoms

This disease is normally restricted to a relatively a small proportion of the florets which are scattered on a head. The sori are long, more or less cylindrical, elongated, slightly curved with a relatively thick creamy-brown covering membrane ([peridium](#)). The peridium splits at the apex to release black mass of spores (spore in groups of balls) among which are found several dark brown filaments which represent the vascular bundles of the infected ovary.



Symptoms

Head smut - *Sphacelotheca reiliana*

Symptoms

The entire head is replaced by large [sori](#). The sorus is covered by a whitish grey membrane of fungal tissue, which ruptures, before the head emerges from the boot leaf to expose a mass of brown smut spores. Spores are embedded in long, thin, dark colored filaments which are the vascular bundles of the infected head.



Symptoms

Management for all smuts

- Treat the seed with Captan or Thiram at 4 g/kg.
- Use disease free seeds.
- Follow crop rotation.
- Collect the smutted ear heads in cloth bags and bury in soil.

Ergot or Sugary disease - *Sphaceliasorghii*

Symptoms

The disease is confined to individual spikelets. The first symptom is the [secretion of honey dew from infected florets](#). Under favourable conditions, long, straight or curved, cream to light brown, hard sclerotia develop. Often the honey dew is colonised by *Crerebellasorghivulgaris* which gives the head a blackened appearance.



Symptom

Pathogen

The fungus produces septate mycelium. The honey dew is a concentrated suspension of conidia, which are single celled, hyaline, elliptic or oblong.

Favourable Conditions

- A period of high rainfall and high humidity during flowering season.
- Cool night temperature and cloudy weather aggravate the disease.

Disease Cycle

The primary source of infection is through the germination of sclerotia which release ascospores that infect the ovary. The secondary spread takes place through air and insect-borne conidia. Rain splashes also help in spreading the disease.

Management

- Adjust the date of sowing so that the crop does not flower during September- October when high rainfall and high humidity favor the disease.
- Spray any one of the following fungicides viz., Mancozeb 2 kg/ha (or) Carbendazim at 500 g/ha at emergence of ear head (5-10 per cent flowering stage) followed by a spray at 50 per cent flowering and repeat the spray after a week, if necessary.

Headmould/Grainmould/Headblight

More than thirty two genera of fungi were found to occur on the grains of sorghum.

Symptoms

If rains occur during the flowering and grain filling stages, severe grain moulding occurs. The most frequently occurring genera are [Fusarium](#), [Curvularia](#), [Alternaria](#), [Aspergillus](#) and [Phoma](#). [Fusarium semitectum](#) and [F. moniliforme](#) develop a fluffy white or pinkish coloration. [C. lunata](#) colours the grain black. Symptom varies depending upon the organism involved and the degree of infection.



Symptoms

Favourable Conditions

- Wet weather following the flowering favors grain mould development.
- The longer the wet period the greater the mould development.
- Compact ear heads are highly susceptible.

Disease cycle

The fungi mainly spread through air-borne conidia. The fungi survive as parasites as well as [saprophytes](#) in the infected plant debris.

Management

- Adjust the sowing time.
- Spray any one of the following fungicides in case of intermittent rainfall during earhead emergence, a week later and during milky stage.
- Mancozeb 1 kg/ha or Captan 1 kg + [Aureofungin](#)-sol 100 g/ha.

Phanerogamic parasite- *Striga asiatica* and *Striga densiflora*

It is a [partial root parasite](#) and occurs mainly in the rainfed sorghum. It is a small plant with bright green leaves, grows up to a height of 15-30 cm. The plants occur in clusters of 10-20/host plant. [S. asiatica produces red to pink flowers](#) while. [S. densiflora](#) produces white flowers. Each fruit contains minute seeds in abundance which survives in the soil for several years.

The root exudates of sorghum stimulate the seeds of the parasite to germinate. The parasite then slowly attaches to the root of the host by [haustoria](#) and grows below the soil surface producing underground stems and roots for about 1-2 months. The parasite grows faster and appears at the base of the plant. Severe infestation causes yellowing and wilting of the host leaves. The infected plants are stunted in growth and may die prior to seed setting.



Symptoms

Management

- Regular weeding and intercultural operation during early stages of parasite growth.
- Spray Fernoxone (sodium salt of 2, 4-D) at 450g /500 litre of water.

3. Diseases of Pearlmillet

Downy mildew - *Sclerosporagraminicola*

Symptoms

Infection is mainly systemic and symptoms appear on leaves and inflorescence. The initial symptoms appear in seedlings at three to four leaf stages. The affected leaves show patches of light green to light yellow colour on the upper surface and the corresponding lower surface bears white downy growth of the fungus consisting of sporangiophores and sporangia. The yellow discoloration often turns to streaks along veins. As a result of infection young plants dry and die ultimately. Symptoms may appear first on the upper leaves of the main shoot or the main shoot may be symptom free and symptoms appear on tillers or on the lateral shoots.



Symptoms

The inflorescence of infected plants gets completely or partially malformed with florets converted into leafy structures, giving the typical symptom of green ear.

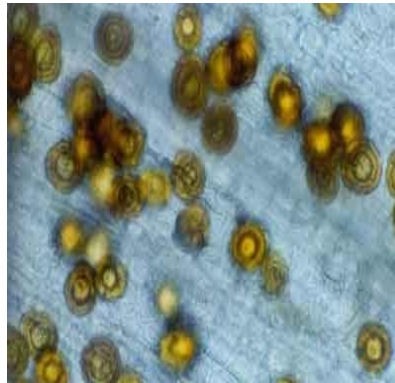
Infected leaves and inflorescences produce sporangia over a considerable period of time under humid conditions and necrosis begins. The dry necrotic tissues contain masses of oospores.



Green ear symptoms

Pathogen

The mycelium is systemic, non septate and intercellular. Short, stout, hyaline sporangiophores arise through stomata and branch irregularly, with stalks bearing sporangia. Sporangia are hyaline, thin walled, elliptical and bear prominent papilla. Oospores are round in shape, surrounded by a smooth, thick and yellowish brown wall.



Oospores

Favourable Conditions

- Very high humidity (90%).
- Presence of water on the leaves
- Low temperature of 15-25°C favor the formation of sporangiophore and sporangia.

Disease cycle

The oospores remain viable in soil for 5 years or longer giving rise to the primary infection on seedlings. Secondary spread is through sporangia produced during rainy season. The dormant mycelium of the fungus is present in embryo of infected seeds.

Management

- Deep ploughing to bury the oospores.
- Roguing out infected plants.
- Adopt crop rotation.
- Grow resistant varieties WCC-75, Co7 and Co (Cu)9.
- Treat the seeds with Metalaxyl at 6g/kg.
- Spray Mancozeb 2 kg or Metalaxyl + [Mancozeb](#) at 1 kg/ha on 20th day after sowing in the field.

Smut - [*Tolyposporium penicillariae*](#)

Symptoms

The pathogen infects few florets and transforms them into plump sori containing smut spores. The sori are larger than normal healthy grains and when the sori mature they become dark brown releasing millions of black smut spore balls.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus is mostly confined to the sorus. The [sori](#) contain spores in groups and are not easy to separate. Each spore is angular or round and light brown.

Favourable Conditions

- High relative humidity.
- Successive cropping with pearl millet.

Disease cycle

- The pathogen survives as spore balls in the soil and serves as primary source of inoculum. Secondary spread is by air-borne conidia.

Management

- The damage caused by the fungus is negligible.
- Removal and destruction of affected ear head will help in controlling the disease.

Rust-*Puccinia penniseti*

Symptoms

Symptoms first appear mostly on the distal half of the lamina. The leaf soon becomes covered by uredosori which appear more on the upper surface. The pustules may be formed on leaf sheath, stem and on peduncles. Later, telial formation takes place on leaf blade, leaf sheath and stem. While brownish uredia are exposed at maturity, the black telia remain covered by the epidermis for a longer duration.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Uredospores are oval, elliptic, sparsely echinulated and pedicellate. Teliospores are dark brown in colour, two celled, cylindrical to club shaped, apex flattened, broad at top and tapering towards base. The fungus is macrocyclic producing uredial and telial stages on pearl millet and aecial and pycnial stages on brinjal.

Favourable Conditions

- Closer spacing.
- Presence of abundant brinjal plants and other species of *Solanum* viz., [*S. torvum*](#), [*S. xanthocarpum*](#) and *S. pubescens*.

Disease cycle

Air-borne uredospores are the primary sources. The uredial stages also occur on several species of [*Pennisetum*](#), which helps in secondary spread of the pathogen.

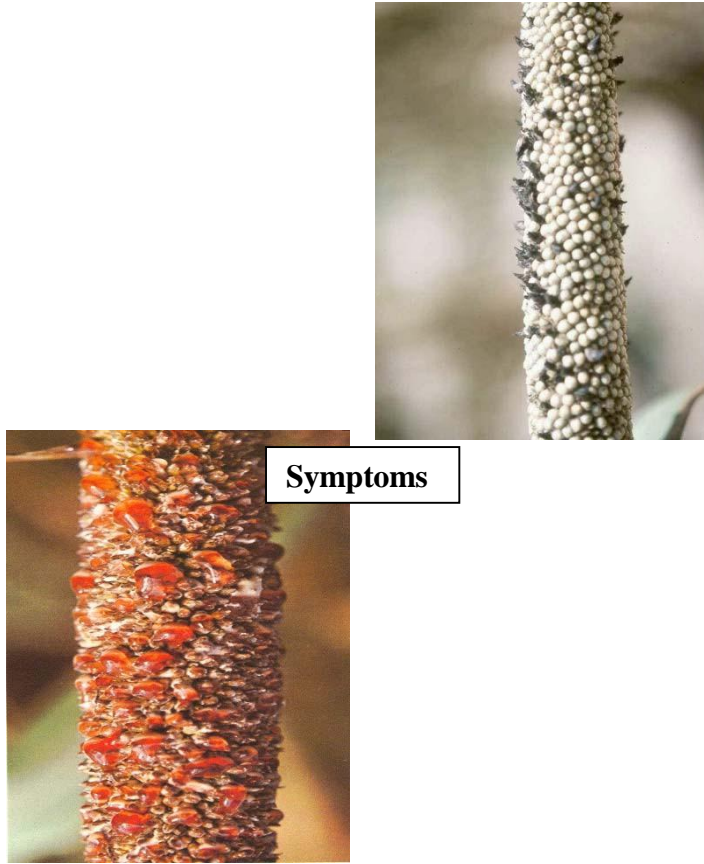
Management

Spray with Wettable Sulphur 3 kg or [Mancozeb](#) 2 kg/ha.

Ergot or Sugary disease - [*Claviceps fusiformis*](#)

Symptoms

The symptom is seen by exudation of small droplets of light pinkish or brownish honey dew from the infected spikelets. Under severe infection many such spikelets exude plenty of honey dew which trickles along the earhead. This attracts several insects. In the later stages, the infected ovary turns into small [dark brown sclerotium](#) which projects out of the spikelet.



Pathogen

The pathogen produces septate mycelium which produces [conidiophores](#) and is closely arranged. [Conidia](#) are hyaline and one celled. The [sclerotia](#) are small (3-8mm x 0.3-15mm) and dark grey but white inside.

Disease cycle

[Sclerotia](#) are viable in soil for 6-8 months. The primary infection takes place by germinating sclerotia present in the soil. Secondary spread is by insects or airborne conidia. The role of collateral hosts like [Cenchrus ciliaris](#) and [C. setigerus](#) in perpetuation of fungus is significant. The fungus also infects other species of [Pennisetum](#).

Management

- Adjust the sowing dates so that the crop does not flower during September when high rainfall and high relative humidity favour the disease spread.
- Immerse the seeds in 10 per cent common salt solution and remove the floating sclerotia.
- Remove collateral hosts.

- Spray with Carbendazim 500g or Mancozeb 2kg or Ziram 1kg/ha when 5-10 percent flowers have opened and again at 50 per cent flowering stage.

Minor diseases

Grain mould - Fungal complex

Grains covered with white, pink or black moulds.

Blast - *Pyricularia setariae*

Diamond shaped to circular lesions with dark brown margins and chlorotic haloes.

Zonate leaf spot - *Gloeocercospora* sp.

Rough circular lesions with alternating concentric bands of straw and brown colour, often coalescing over the leaf surface.

Banded leaf spot - *Rhizoctonia* spp.

Patch of light and dark, discoloured areas and often bearing fluffy to light brown fungal mats.

4. Diseases of Maize

Downy mildew/Crazy top

Sorghum downy mildew -

[Peronosclerosporasorghii](#) Phlippinedownymildew-

[Peronosclerosporaphilippinensis](#) Crazy top -

[Sclerophthoramacrospora](#)

Symptoms

The most characteristic symptom is the development of [chlorotic streaks](#) on the leaves. Plants exhibit a stunted and bushy appearance due to shortening of the internodes. White downy growth is seen on the lower surface of leaf. Downy growth also occurs on bracts of green unopened male flowers in the tassel. Small to large leaves are noticed in the tassel. [Proliferation](#) of auxillary buds on the stalk of tassel and the cobs is common ([Crazy top](#)).



Symptoms



Pathogen

The fungus grows as white downy growth on both surface of the leaves, consisting of [sporangiophores](#) and [sporangia](#). Sporangiohophores are quite short and stout, branch profusely into series of pointed [sterigmata](#) which bear hyaline, oblong or ovoid sporangia (conidia). Sporangia germinate directly and infect the plants. In advanced stages, [oospores](#) are formed which are spherical, thick walled and deep brown.

Favourable Conditions

- Low temperature (21-33°C)
- High relative humidity (90 percent) and drizzling.
- Young plants are highly susceptible.

Disease cycle

The primary source of infection is through oospores in soil and also dormant mycelium present in the infected maize seeds. Secondary spread is through airborne conidia. Depending on the pathogen species, the initial source of disease inoculum can be oospores that over winter in the soil or conidia produced in infected, over wintering crop debris and infected neighboring plants. Some species that cause downy mildew can also be seed borne, although this is largely restricted to seed that is fresh and has high moisture content.

At the onset of the growing season, at soil temperatures above 20°C, oospores in the soil germinate in response to root exudates from susceptible maize seedlings. The germ tube infects the underground sections of maize plants leading to characteristic symptoms of systemic infection including extensive [chlorosis](#) and stunted growth. If the pathogen is seed borne, whole plants show symptoms. [Oospores](#) are reported to survive in nature for up to 10 years.

Once the fungus has colonised host tissue, [sporangiophores \(conidiophores\)](#) emerge from stomata and produce [sporangia \(conidia\)](#) which are wind and rain splash disseminated and initiate secondary infections. Sporangia are always produced in the night. They are fragile and can not be disseminated more than a few hundred meters and do not remain viable for more than a few hours.

Germination of sporangia is dependent on the availability of free water on the leaf surface. Initial symptoms of disease (chlorotic specks and [streaks](#) that elongate parallel to veins)

occur in 3 days. Conidia are reproduced profusely during the growing season. As the crop approaches senescence, oospores are produced in large numbers.

Management

- Deep ploughing.
- Crop rotation with pulses.
- Rogue out infected plants.
- Treat the seeds with metalaxyl at 6g/kg.
- Spray the crop with Metalaxyl + Mancozeb @ 1 kg on 20th day after sowing.
- Grow resistant varieties and hybrids viz. CO1, COH1 and COH2.

Leaf blight - *Helminthosporium maydis* (Syn: *H. turcicum*)

Symptoms

The fungus affects the crop at young stage. Small yellowish round to oval spots are seen on the leaves. The spots gradually increase in area into bigger elliptical spots and are straw to grayish brown in the centre with dark brown margins. The spots coalesce giving blighted appearance. The surface is covered with olive green velvety masses of conidia and conidiophores.

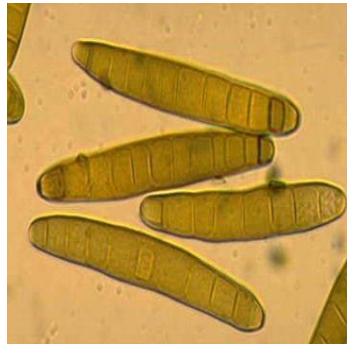


Symptoms

Pathogen

Conidiophores are in group, geniculate, mid dark brown, pale near the apex and smooth.

Conidia are distinctly curved, fusiform, pale to mid dark golden brown with 5-11 septa.



Conidia

Favourable Conditions

- Optimum temperature for the germination of conidia is 8 to 27°C provided with free water on the leaf.
- Infection takes place early in the wet season.

Disease cycle

It is a seed-borne fungus. It also infects sorghum, wheat, barely, oats, sugarcane and spores of the fungus are also found to associate with seeds of green gram, black gram, cowpea, varagu, Sudan grass, Johnson grass and Teosinte.

Management

- Treat these seeds with Captan or Thiram at 4g/kg.
- Spray Mancozeb 2 kg or captan 1 kg/ha.

Rust - *Puccinia sorghi*

Symptoms

Circular to oval, elongated cinnamon-brown powdery pustules are scattered over both surface of the leaves. As the plant matures, the pustules become brown to black owing to the replacement of red uredospores by black teliospores.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Uredospores are globose or elliptical finely echinulate, yellowish brown with 4 germ pores. Teliospores are brownish black, or dark brown, oblong to ellipsoidal, rounded to flattened at the apex. They are two celled and slightly constricted at the septum and the spore wall is thickened at the apex.



Uredospores and teliospores

Favourable Conditions

- Cool temperature and high relative humidity.

Disease cycle

Primary source of inoculum is uredospore surviving on alternate hosts viz., *Oxalis corniculata* and *Euchlaena mexicana*.

Management

- Remove the alternate hosts.
- Spray Mancozeb at 2 kg/ha.

Head smut-

Sphacelotheca reiliana Symptoms

Symptoms are usually noticed on the cob and tassel. Large smut sori replace the tassel and the ear. Sometimes the tassel is partially or wholly converted into smut sorus. The smutted plants are stunted produce little yield and remain greener than that of the rest of the plants.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Smut spores are produced in large numbers which are reddish brown to black, thick walled, finely spined, spherical.

Favourable Conditions

- Low temperature favours more infection and this fungus also infects the sorghum

Disease cycle

The smut spores retain its viability for two years. The fungus is externally seedborne and soil-borne. The major source of infection is through soil-borne [chlamydospores](#).

Management

- Field sanitation.
- Crop rotation with pulses.
- Treat the seeds with Captan or Thiram at 4 g/kg.

Charcoal rot-

[Macrophomina phaseolina \(Rhizoctonia bataticola\)](#) Symptoms

The affected plants exhibit wilting symptoms. The stalk of the infected plants can be recognized by grayish streak. The pith becomes shredded and grayish black minute [sclerotia develop on the vascular bundles](#). Shredding of the interior of the stalk often causes stalk to

break in the region of the crown. The crown region of the infected plant becomes dark in colour.

Shredding of root bark and disintegration of root system are the common features.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces large number of sclerotia which are round and black in colour. Sometimes, it produces pycnidia on the stems or stalks.

Favourable Conditions

- High temperature and low soil moisture (drought)

Disease cycle

The fungus has a wide host range, attacking sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet and pulses. It survives for more than 16 years in the infected plant debris. The primary source of infection is through soil-borne sclerotia. The pathogen also attacks many other hosts, which helps in its perpetuation. Since the fungus is a facultative parasite it is capable of living saprophytically on dead organic tissues, particularly many of its natural hosts producing sclerotial bodies. The fungus over winters as a sclerotia in the soil and infects the host at susceptible crop stage through roots and proceeds towards stem.

Management

- Long crop rotation with crops that are not natural host of the fungus.
- Irrigate the crops at the time of earhead emergence to maturity.
- Treat the seeds with Carbendazim or Captan at 2g/kg.
- Grow disease tolerant varieties viz., SN-65, SWS-8029, Diva and Zenit.

Minor diseases

Bacterial Stalkrot- *Erwinia dissolvens*

Symptoms

The basal internodes develop soft rot and give a water soaked appearance. A mild sweet fermenting odour accompanies such rotting. Leaves some time show signs of wilting and affected plants topple down in few days. Ears and shank may also show rot. They fail to develop further and the ears hang down simply from the plant



Symptoms

Disease cycle

Borer insects play a significant role in initiation of the disease. The organism is soilborne and makes its entry through wounds and injuries on the host surface. The organism survives saprophytically on debris of infected materials and serves primary inoculum in the next season.

Mosaic- *Maize mosaic potyvirus*

Symptoms

Symptoms appear as chlorotic spots, which gradually turn into stripes covering entire leaf blade. Chlorotic stripes and spots can also develop on leaf sheaths, stalks and husks. Moderate to severe rosetting of new growth is observed. Size of stalk, leaf blades and tassel tend to be normal in late infection.



Pathogen

It is caused by [Maize mosaic potyvirus](#). Virions are [flexuous](#), 750-900nm long, [ssRNA](#) genome.

Disease cycle

Symptoms

It is transmitted in nature by leaf hopper vector, [Perigrinus maidis](#).

Brown spot - [Physoderma maydis](#)

Water soaked lesions, which are oval, later turn into light green and finally brown.

5. Diseases of Groundnut

Tikka leaf spots

Early leaf spot: *Cercoporaarachidicola* (Sexual Stage: *Mycosphaerellaarachidis*)

Late leaf spot: *Phaeoisariopsispersonata* (Syn : *Cercosporapersonata*)

(Sexual stage : *Mycosphaerellaberkeleyi*)

Symptoms

The disease occurs on all above ground parts of the plant, more severely on the leaves. The leaf symptoms produced by the two pathogens can be easily distinguished by appearance, spot colour and shapes. Both the fungi produce lesions also on petiole, stem and pegs. The lesions caused by both species coalesce as infection develops and severely spotted leaves shed prematurely. The quality and yield of nuts are drastically reduced in severe infections.



Pathogen *C.arachidicola* (Se x Symptoms *achidis*)

The pathogen is intercellular and does not produce [haustoria](#) and become intracellular when host cells die. The fungus produces abundant [sporulation](#) on the upper surface of the leaves. [Conidiophores](#) are olivaceous brown or yellowish brown in colour, short, 1 or 2 septate, unbranched and geniculate and arise in clusters.

[Conidia](#) are subhyaline or pale yellow, obclavate, often curved 3-12 septate, 3.5-11 x 2.5 - 5.4 μm in size with rounded to distinctly truncate base and sub-acute tip. The perfect stage of the fungus produces [perithecia](#) as [ascostromata](#). They are globose with papillate [ostiole](#). [Asci](#) are cylindrical to clavate and contain 8 [ascospores](#). Ascospores are hyaline, slightly curved and two celled, apical cell larger than the lower cell.

[P.personata](#) ([C.personata](#)) (Sexual stage: [M.berkeleyii](#))

The fungus produces internal and [intercellular](#) mycelium with the production of [haustoria](#). The [conidiophores](#) are long, continuous, 1-2 septate, geniculate, arise in clusters and olive brown in colour. The [conidia](#) are cylindrical or obclavate, short, measure 18-60 x 6-10 μm , hyaline to olive brown, usually straight or curved slightly with 1-9 septa, not constricted but mostly 3-4 septate. The fungus in its perfect stage produces [perithecia](#) as [ascostromata](#) which are globose or broadly ovate with papillate ostiole. [Asci](#) are cylindrical to ovate, contain 8 ascospores. Ascospores are 2 celled and constricted at septum and hyaline.

Favourable Conditions

- Prolonged high relative humidity for 3 days.
- Low temperature (20 C) with dew on leaf surface.
- Heavy doses of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers
- Deficiency of magnesium in soil.

Disease cycle

The pathogen survives for a long period in the infected plant debris through conidia, dormant mycelium and perithecia in soil. The volunteer groundnut plants also harbour the pathogen. The primary infection is by ascospores or conidia from infected plant debris or infected seeds. The secondary spread is by wind blown conidia. Rain splash also helps in the spread of conidia.

Management

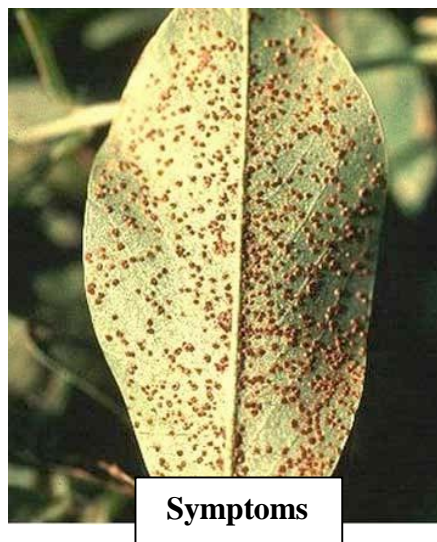
- Remove and destroy the infected plant debris.

- Eradicate the volunteer groundnut plants.
- Keep weeds under control.
- Treat the seeds with Carbendazim or Thiram at 2g/kg.
- Spray Carbendazim 500g or mancozeb 2 kg or Chlorothalonil 2 kg/ha and if necessary, repeat after 15 days.
- Grow moderately resistant varieties like ALR 1.

Rust -*Puccinia arachidis*

Symptoms

The disease attacks all aerial parts of the plant. The disease is usually found when the plants are about 6 weeks old. Small brown to chestnut dusty pustules ([uredosori](#)) appear on the lower surface of leaves. The epidermis ruptures and exposes a powdery mass of uredospores. Corresponding to the sori, small, [necrotic](#), brown spots appear on the upper surface of leaves. The rust pustules may be seen on petioles and stem. Late in the season, brown [teliosori](#), as dark pustules, appear among the necrotic patches. In severe infection lower leaves dry and drop prematurely. The severe infection leads to production of small and shriveled seeds.



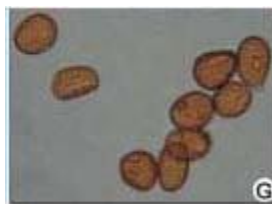
Pathogen

The pathogen produces both [uredial](#) and [telial](#) stages. Uredial stages are reproduced abundantly on groundnut and production of telia is limited. Uredospores are pedicellate,

unicellular, yellow, oval or round and echinulated with 2 or 3 germ pores. Teliospores are dark brown with two cells. Pycnial and aecial stages have not been recorded and there is no information available about the role of alternate host.



Teliospores



Uredospores

Favourable Conditions

- High relative humidity (above 85 percent).
- Heavy rainfall.
- Low temperature (20-25°C).

Disease cycle

The pathogen survives as uredospores on volunteer groundnut plants. The fungus also survives in infected plant debris in soil. The spread is mainly through wind borne inoculum of uredospores. The uredospores also spread as contamination of seeds and pods. Rain splash and implements also help in dissemination. The fungus also survives on the collateral hosts like *Arachis marginata*, *A. nambiquarae* and *A. prostrata*.

Management

- Avoid monoculturing of groundnut.
- Remove volunteer groundnut plants and reservoir hosts.
- Spray mancozeb 2 kg or Wettable Sulphur 3 kg or Tridemorph 500ml or [Chlorothalonil](#) 2 kg/ha.
- Grow moderately resistant varieties like ALR 1.

Collar rot or seedling blight or crown rot - [Aspergillus niger](#) and *A. pulverulentum*

Symptoms

The disease usually appears in three phases.

i. Pre-emergence rot

Seeds are attacked by soil-borne conidia and caused rotting of seeds. The seeds are covered with black masses of spores and internal tissues of seed become soft and watery.

ii. Post-emergence rot

The pathogen attacks the emerging young seedling and cause circular brown spots on the cotyledons. The symptom spreads later to the hypocotyl and stem. Brown discolored spots appear on collar region. The affected portion become soft and rotten, resulting in the collapse of the seedling. The collar region is covered by profuse growth of fungus and conidia and affected stem also show shredding symptom.

iii. Crown rot

The infection when occurs in adult plants show crown rot symptoms. Large lesions develop on the stem below the soil and spread upwards along the branches causing drooping of leaves and wilting of plant.



Pathogen

Symptoms

The mycelium of the fungus is fine to sub-hyaline. Conidiophores arise directly from the substrate and are septate, thick walled, hyaline or olive brown in colour. The vesicles are mostly globose and have two rows of hyaline [phialides](#) viz., primary and secondary phialides.

The conidial head are dark brown to black. The conidia are globose, dark brown in colour and produce in long chains.

Favourable Conditions

- Deep sowing of seeds.
- High soil temperature (30-35° C).
- Low soil moisture.

Disease cycle

The pathogen survive in plant debris in the soil, not necessarily from a groundnut crop. Soil-borne conidia caused disease carry over from season to season. The other primary source is the infested seeds. The pathogen is also seedborne in nature.

Management

- Crop rotation.
- Destruction of plant debris.
- Remove and destroy previous season's infested crop debris in the field
- Seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride*/ *T.harzianum* @ 4 g/kg of seeds and soil application of *Trichoderma viride*/ *T.harzianum* at 2.5kg/ha, preferably with organic amendments such as castor cake or neem cake or mustard cake @ 500 kg/ ha.

Root rot - *Macrophomina phaseolina*

Symptoms

In the early stages of infection, reddish brown lesion appears on the stem just above the soil level. The leaves and branches show drooping, leading to death of the whole plant. The decaying stems are covered with whitish mycelial growth. The death of the plant results in shredding of bark. The rotten tissues contain large number of black or dark brown, thick walled sclerotia. When infection spreads to underground roots, the sclerotia are formed externally as well as internally in the rotten tissue. Pod infection leads to blackening of the shells and sclerotia can be seen inside the shells.

Pathogen

The fungus produces hyaline to dull brown mycelium. The sclerotia are thick walled and dark brown in colour.

Favourable Conditions

- Prolonged rainy season at seedling stage and low lying areas.

Disease cycle

The fungus remains dormant as sclerotia for a long period in the soil and in infected plant debris. The primary infection is through soil-borne and seed-borne sclerotia. The secondary spread of sclerotia is aided by irrigation water, human agency, implements and cattle etc.

Management

- Treat the seeds with thiram or carbendazim 2g/kg or *Trichoderma viride* at 4g/kg.
- Spot drench with Carbendazim at 0.5 g/lit.

Rosette - [Groundnut rosette assistor virus](#) (GRAV), [Groundnut rosette virus](#) and *Groundnut rosette satellites*

Symptoms

The affected plants are characterized by the appearance of dense clump or dwarf shoots with tuft of small leaves forming in a rosette fashion. The plant exhibits chlorosis and [mosaic mottling](#). The infected plants remain stunted and produce flowers, but only a few of the pegs may develop further to nuts but no seed formation.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The disease is caused by a complex mixture of viruses viz., [Groundnut rosette assistor virus](#) (GRAV), [Groundnut rosette virus](#) and *Groundnut rosette satellites* is an isometric, not enveloped and 28 nm diameter (reported from India) and it gives no overt symptoms in groundnut. *Groundnut rosette virus* is with [ssRNA](#) genome, which becomes packaged in GRAV virions and thus depends on it for aphid transmission, but produces no overt symptoms in groundnut. The

groundnut rosette satellites are [satellite RNAs](#) that control the symptoms and cause the different types of rosette (chlorotic, green and mosaic).

Disease Cycle

The primary source of spread by aphid vector, [Aphis craccivora](#) and [A. gossipii](#) in a persistent manner, retained by vector but not transmitted congenitally. The virus is not transmitted by any other means like mechanical or seed or pollen. The virus can survive on the volunteer plants of groundnut and other weed hosts.

Management

- Practice clean cultivation.
- Use heavy seed rate and rogue out the infected plants periodically.
- Spray [Monocrotophos](#) or [Methyl demeton](#) at 500 ml/ha.

Groundnut bud necrosis disease - [Groundnut bud necrosis virus](#) (GBNV-Tospovirus) Symptoms

First symptoms are visible 2-6 weeks after infection as ring spots on leaves. The newly emerging leaves are small, rounded or pinched inwards and [rugose](#) with varying patterns of mottling and minute ring spots. Necrotic spots and irregularly shaped lesions develop on leaves and petioles. Stem also exhibits [necrotic streaks](#).



ptoms

Plant becomes stunted with short internodes and short auxillary shoots. Leaflets show reduction in size, distortion of the lamina, mosaic mottling and general chlorosis. In advanced conditions, the necrosis of buds occurs. Top bud is killed and necrosis spreads downwards. Drastic reduction in flowering and seeds produced are abnormally small and wrinkled with the dark black lesions on the testa.

Pathogen

It is caused by [*Groundnut bud necrosis virus*](#)(GBNV). The virus particles are spherical, 30 nm in diameter, enveloped, [ssRNA](#) with [multipartite](#) genome.

Disease cycle

The virus perpetuates in the weed hosts viz., [*Bidens pilosa*](#), [*Erigon bonariensis*](#), [*Tagetes minuta*](#) and [*Trifolium subterraneum*](#). The virus is transmitted by thrips viz., [*Thrips palmi*](#), [*T. tabaci*](#) and [*Frankliniella*](#) sp.

Management

- Adopt plant spacing of 15x15 cm.
- Remove and destroy infected plants up to 6 weeks after sowing.
- Application of Monocrotophos 500 ml/ha, 30 days after sowing either alone or in combination with AVP (Anti Viral Principle) extracted from sorghum or coconut leaves. Spray the crop with 10 per cent AVP at 500 lit/ha, ten and twenty days after sowing.

Minor diseases

Stem rot - [*Sclerotium rolfsii*](#)

Symptoms

The first symptom is the sudden drying of a branch which is completely or partially in contact with the soil. The leaves turn brown and dry but remain attached to the plant. Near soil on stems white growth of fungus mycelium is appeared. As the disease advances white mycelium web spreads over the soil and the basal canopy of the plant. The sclerotia, the size and colour of mustard seeds, appear on the infected areas as the disease develops and spreads. The entire plant may be killed or only two or three branches may be affected. Lesions on the developing pegs can retard pod development. Infected pods are usually rotted.



Symptoms

Management

- Cultural practices such as deep covering or burial of organic matter before planting, non-dirt cultivation by avoiding movement of soil up around the base of plants and preventing accumulation of organic debris are extremely useful in reducing the disease.
- Crop rotation with wheat, corn and soybean may minimize the incidence of stem rot.
- Seed treatment with Carbendazim / Thiram / Captan @ 2-3 g/kg seed.
- Seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride* formulation (4g/kg) followed by application of 2.5kg *Trichoderma viride* formulation mixed with 50kg farm yard manure before sowing.

Wilt-*Fusarium oxysporum* and *F. solani*

Symptoms

Germinating seeds are attacked by the pathogens shortly before emergence. There is general tissue disintegration and the surface of the seedling is covered with sporulating mycelium. Damping off symptoms characterized by brown to dark brown water soaked sunken lesions on the hypocotyl which later encircle the stem and extend above the soil level. Roots are also attacked, especially the apical portions. The affected seedlings become yellow and wilted. The leaves turn greyish green and the plants dry up and die. The roots and stems show internal vascular browning and discoloration. These fungi are also commonly associated with pod rot.

Management

- Seed treatment with systemic fungicides like Carbendazim at 2g/kg seed.

Anthraxnose-*Colletotrichum dematium* and *C. capsici*

Symptoms

Small water-soaked yellowish spots appear on the lower leaves which later turn into circular brown lesions with yellow margin 1 to 3 mm in diameter. In some cases lesions enlarge rapidly become irregular and cover the entire leaflet, and extend to the stipules and stems. Brownish grey lesions occur on both the surfaces of leaflets. Infection spreads to stipules, petioles and branches.



Symptoms

Disease cycle

The pathogen is seed, soil and air-borne.

Management

- Deepsummerploughing.
- Use healthy certified seeds.
- Removal of plant debris.
- Seedtreatmentwithcopperoxychlorideat3g/kgseedorcarbendazimat2g/kgseed.

Yellowmould-[Aspergillus flavus](#)

Symptoms

Seed and un-emerged seedlings attacked by the pathogen are rapidly shriveled and dried. Brown or black mass covered by yellow or greenish spores may be seen. Decay is most rapid when infected seeds are planted. After seedling emergence cotyledons already infected with the pathogen, show necrotic lesions with reddish brown margins. This necrosis terminates at or near thecotyledonaryaxis.Underfieldconditionsthediseasedplantsarestunted,andareoften

chlorotic. The leaflets are reduced in size with pointed tips, widely varied in shape and sometimes with veinal clearing.

Management

- Since the fungus is a weak parasite, agronomic practices which favour rapid germination and vigorous growth of seedling will reduce the chance of *A. flavus* infection.
- Seed treatment with carbendazim or captan or thiram at 2g/kg seed.

Grey mould - [*Botrytis cinerea*](#)

Infection is seen on leaves, stem and underground parts of the groundnut. Initially infection occurs at ground level by a light grey fungal rot which causes death of the plants. **Bacterial wilt** - [*Pseudomonas solanacearum*](#)

Infected plants appear unhealthy, chlorotic and wilt under water stress. Dark brown discoloration of xylem is seen. Grey slimy liquid ooze out of the vascular bundles.

Leaf spot - [*Alternaria arachidis*](#) and [*A. tenuissima*](#)

Symptoms

Lesions produced by [*A. arachidis*](#) are brown in colour and irregular in shape surrounded by yellowish halos. Symptoms produced by [*A. tenuissima*](#) are characterized by blighting of apical portions of leaflets which turn light to dark brown colour. Lesions produced by [*A. alternata*](#) are small, chlorotic, water soaked, that spread over the surface of the leaf. The lesions become necrotic and brown and are round to irregular in shape. Veins and veinlets adjacent to the lesions become necrotic. Lesions increase in area and their central portions become pale, rapidly dry out, and disintegrate. Affected leaves show chlorosis and in severe attacks become prematurely senescent. Lesions can coalesce, give the leaf a ragged and blighted appearance.



Symptoms

Management

- Foliar application of Mancozeb (2kg/ha) or Copper oxychloride (2kg/ha) or Carbendazim (500g/ha).

Indian Peanut Clump Disease - [*Peanut Clump virus*](#)

Earlier this disease was confused with groundnut rosette. Now it is recognized as a distinct virus causing clump disease. The leaves turn very dark and plants become severely stunted. The disease is soilborne and transmitted by a fungus, [*Polymyxagraminis*](#). The hot soil affects transmission. It is also transmitted by seed. The virus is rod shaped, 190-245nm long x 21nm wide, not enveloped, [ssRNA](#) genome.

Other virus diseases of minor importance occurring on groundnut are:

Peanut chlorotic streak (caused by [*Caulimovirus*](#), occurs only in India), Peanut green mosaic and mottle (caused by a [*Potyvirus*](#)), peanut stunt (caused by [*Cucumovirus*](#)), groundnut chlorotic spot (caused by a [*Potexvirus*](#)), groundnut eye spot (caused by [*Potyvirus*](#)) and groundnut ringspot.

6. Diseases of Castor

Seedling blight- [*Phytophthora parasitica*](#)

Symptoms

The disease appears as circular, dull green patches on both the surface of the cotyledon leaves. It later spreads and causes rotting. The infection moves to the stem and causes withering and death of the seedling. In mature plants, the infection initially appears on the young leaves and spreads to the petiole and stem, causing black discoloration and severe defoliation.



Dead seedling



Spot on older leaf



Leaf blight symptom

Pathogen

The pathogen produces non-septate and hyaline mycelium. [Sporangiophores](#) emerge through the stomata on the lower surface singly or in groups. They are unbranched and bear single-celled, hyaline, round or oval sporangia at the tip singly. The [sporangia](#) germinate to produce abundant [zoospores](#). The fungus also produces [oospores](#) and [chlamydospores](#) in adverse seasons.

Favourable Conditions

- Continuous rainy weather.
- Low temperature (20-25°C).
- Low lying and ill drained soils.

Disease cycle

The pathogen remains in the soil as chlamydospores and oospores which act as primary source of infection. The fungus also survives on other hosts like potato, tomato, brinjal, sesamum etc. The secondary spread takes place through wind borne sporangia.

Management

- Remove and destroy infected plant residues.
- Avoid low-lying and ill drained fields for sowing.
- Treat these seeds with thiram or captan at 4g/kg.

Rust – *Melampsora ricini*

Symptoms

Minute, orange-yellow coloured, raised pustules appear with powdery masses on the lower surface of the leaves and the corresponding areas on the upper surface of the leaves are yellow. Often the pustules are grouped in concentric rings and coalesce together to form drying of leaves.



Powdery mass covering entire leaf

Pathogen

The pathogen produces only uredosori in castor plants and other stages of the life cycle are unknown. Uredospores are two kinds, one is thick walled and other is thin walled. They are elliptical to round, orange-yellow coloured and finely warty.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the self sown castor crops in the off season. It can also survive on other species of *Ricinus*. The fungus also attacks *Euphorbia obtusifolia*, *E.geniculata* and *E.marginata*. The infection spreads through airborne uredospores.

Management

- Rogue out the self-sown castor crops and other weed hosts.
- Spray Mancozeb at 2kg/ha or [Propiconazole](#) 1l/ha.

Leaf blight- [Alternaria ricini](#)

Symptoms

All the aerial parts of plants viz., leaves, stem, inflorescences and capsules are liable to be attacked by the pathogen. Irregular brown spots with concentric rings form initially on the leaves and covered with fungal growth. When the spots coalesce to form big patches, premature defoliation occurs. The stems, inflorescences and capsules are also show dark brown lesions with concentric rings. On the capsules, initially brown sunken spots appear, enlarge rapidly and cover the whole pod. The capsules crack and seeds are also get infected.



Alternaria leaf spot with concentric rings

Pathogen

The pathogen produces erectors lightly curved, light grey to brown conidiophores, which are occasionally in groups. Conidia are produced in long chains. Conidia are obclavate, light olive in colour with 5-16 cells having transverse and longitudinal septa with a beak at the tip.

Favourable Conditions

- High atmospheric humidity (85-90 %).
- Low temperature (16-20°C)

Disease cycle

The pathogen survives on hosts like [Jatropha pandurifolia](#) and *Bridelia hamiltoniana*. The pathogen is externally and [internally seed-borne](#) and causes primary infection. The secondary infection is through air-borne conidia.

Management

- Treat these seeds with captan or thiram at 2g/kg.
- Remove the reservoir hosts periodically.
- Spray mancozeb at 2kg/ha.

Brown leaf spot - [*Cercosporaricinella*](#)

Symptoms

The disease appears as minute brown specks surrounded by a pale green halo. The spots enlarge to greyish white centre portion with deep brown margin. The spots may be 2-4 mm in diameter and when several spots coalesce, large brown patches appear but restricted by veins. Infected tissues often drop off leaving shot-hole symptoms. In severe infections, the older leaves may be blighted and withered.



Spots on leaf

Pathogen

The pathogen hyphae collect beneath the epidermis and form a hymenial layer. Clusters of conidiophores emerge through stomata or epidermis. They are septate and unbranched with deep brown base and light brown tip. The conidia are elongated, colourless, straight or slightly curved, truncate at the base and narrow at the tip with 2-7 septa.

Disease cycle

The pathogen remains as dormant mycelium in the plant debris. The disease mainly spreads through wind borne conidia.

Management

- Spraying with 1% [Bordeaux mixture](#) or [Copper oxy chloride](#) @ 0.2% may help to bring the disease under check; but where the cultures of Eri-silk worm are maintained on castor plants, spraying would not be desirable.
- Use of resistant varieties would be the most effective method for combating the disease.
- Spraying twice with Mancozeb 2g/lit or Carbendazim 500g/ha at 10-15 day interval reduces the disease incidence.
- Treat the seed with thiram or Captan 2gm/kg seed.

Powdery mildew - [Leveillulataurica](#)

Symptoms

It is characterized by typical mildew growth which is generally confined to the under-surface of the leaf. When the infection is severe the upper-surface is also covered by the whitish growth of the fungus. Light green patches, corresponding to the diseased areas on the under surface, are visible on the upper side especially when the leaves are held against light.



Powdery mass covering entire leaf

Management

- When weather is comparatively dry spray twice with wettable Sulphur 2g/lit at 15 days interval, starting from 3 months after sowing.
- Spray 1ml hexaconazole or 2ml dinocap / litre of water at fortnight intervals. The variety Jwala is resistant to this disease.

Stem rot - [Macrophominaphaseolina](#)

Symptoms

Small brown depressed lesions on and around nodes. Increase in size on both directions causing 2 to 20 cm necrotic area. Lesions often coalesce and girdle the stem causing leaf drop.

Drying and death starts from apex and progress. Infected capsules discoloured and drop easily. Sudden wilting of plants in patches under high moisture stress coupled with high soil temperature. Plant exhibit symptoms of drought and drooping of leaves. At ground level black lesions are formed on the stem. Young leaves curl inwards with black margins and drop off later, such branches Die-back. Entire branch and top of the plant withers.



Affected plant showing drooping of leaves

Management

- Grow tolerant and resistant varieties like Jyothi, Jwala, GCH-4, DCH-30 and SHB-145.
- Avoid water logging.
- Destruction of crop debris.
- Selection of healthy seed.
- Providing irrigation at critical stages of the crop.
- Treat the seed with thiram @ 2g/kg or carbendazim at 2g/ kg seed.
- Seed treatment with [Trichoderma viride](#) formulation at 4g/kg of seed.
- Soil drenching with Carbendazim (1g/1 litre of water) 2-3 times at 15 days interval.

Bacterial leaf spot - *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *ricinicola*

Symptoms

The pathogen attacks cotyledons, leaves and veins and produces few to numerous small round, water-soaked spots which later become angular and dark brown to jet black in color. The spots are generally aggregated towards the tip. At a later stage the spots become irregular in shape particularly when they coalesce and areas around such spots turn pale-brown and brittle. Bacterial ooze is observed on both the sides of the leaf which is in the form of small shining beads or fine scales.



Pustules on lower leaf surface

Management

- Field sanitation help in minimizing the yield loss as pathogen survives on seed and plant debris.
- Hotwater treatment of seed at 58°C to 60°C for ten minutes.
- Grow tolerant varieties.
- Spray Copper oxychloride 2kg/ha or [Streptocycline](#) 100g/ha or Paushamycin 250g/ha.

Wilt-[Fusarium oxysporum](#)

Symptoms

When seedlings are attacked cotyledonary leaves turn to dull green colour, wither and die subsequently. Leaves are droop and drop off leaving behind only top leaves. Diseased plants are sickly in appearance. Wilting of plants, root degeneration, collar rot, drooping of leaves and necrosis of affected tissue and finally leading to death of plants. Necrosis of leaves starts from margins spreading to interveinal areas and finally to the whole leaf. Spilt open stem shows brownish discolouration and white cottony growth of mycelia much prominently in the pith of the stem.



Castor wilt

Symptoms

Management

- Selection of disease free seeds.
- Grow tolerant and resistant varieties like Jyothi, Jwala, GCH-4 DCH-30 and SHB 145.
- Avoid water logging
- Burning of crop debris
- Green manuring and intercropping with red gram
- Treat the seeds with thiram @ 2g/ kg or carbendiazim @ 2g/ kg seed.
- Seed treatment with 4g of *Trichoderma viride* talc formulation.
- Multiplication of 2kg of *T.viride* formulation by mixing in 50kg farm yard manure
- Sprinkling water and covering with polythene sheet for 15 days and then applying between rows of the crops is helpful in reducing the incidence.

7. Diseases of Sesamum

Root rot or stem rot or charcoal rot - [*Macrophominaphaseolina*](#) (Sclerotial stage: [*Rhizoctonia bataticola*](#))

Symptoms

The disease symptom starts as yellowing of lower leaves, followed by drooping and defoliation. The stem portion near the ground level shows dark brown lesions and bark at the collar region shows shredding. The sudden death of plants is seen in patches. In the grown-up plants, the stem portion near the soil level shows large number of black [pycnidia](#).



Symptoms

The stem portion can be easily pulled out leaving the rotten root portion in the soil. The infection when spreads to pods, they open prematurely and immature seeds shriveled and become black in colour. Minute pycnidia are also seen on the infected capsules and seeds. The rotten root as well as stem tissues contains a large number of minute black [sclerotia](#). These sclerotia may also be present on the infected pods and seeds.

Pathogen

The pathogen produces dark brown, septate mycelium showing constrictions at the hyphal junctions. The [sclerotia](#) are minute, dark black and 110-130 μm in diameter. The [pycnidia](#) are dark brown with a prominent [ostiole](#). The [conidia](#) are hyaline, elliptical and single celled.

Favourable Conditions

- Day temperature of 30°C and above
- Prolonged drought followed by copious irrigation.

Disease cycle

The fungus remains dormant as sclerotia in soil as well as in infected plant debris

in soil. The infected plant debris also carries pycnidia. The fungus primarily spreads through infected seeds which carry sclerotia and pycnidia. The fungus also spreads through soil-borne sclerotia. The secondary spread is through the conidia transmitted by wind and rain water.

Management

- Seed treatment with carbendazim + thiram (1:1) at 2g/kg seed.
- Treat the seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4g/kg.
- Apply farmyard manure or green leaf manure at 10t/ha or neem cake 150kg/ha. Spot drench with Carbendazim at 1.0 g/litre.

Leafblight- [Alternaria sesami](#)

Symptoms

Initially small, circular, reddish brown spots (1-8mm) appear on leaves which enlarge later and cover large area with concentric rings. The lower surface of the spots are greyish brown in colour. In severe blighting defoliation occurs. Dark brown lesions can also be seen on petioles, stem and capsules. Infection of capsules results in premature splitting with shriveled seeds.

Pathogen

The mycelium of the fungus is dull brown and septate and produce large number of pale grey-yellow [conidiophores](#) which are straight or curved. The conidia are light olive coloured with transverse and longitudinal septa. These are around 3-5 septate and conidia are borne in chain over short conidiophore.

Favourable Conditions

- Low temperature (20-25°C),
- High relative humidity
- Cloudy weather.

Disease Cycle

The fungus is seed-borne and also soil-borne as it remains dormant in the infected plant debris.

Management

- Treat these seeds with thiram or Carbendazim at 2g/kg.
- Spray Mancozeb at 2kg/ha or [Iprodion](#) 1L/ha.

Leaf spot -*Cercosporasesami*

Symptoms

The disease first appears on the leaves as minute water-soaked lesions, which enlarge to form round to irregular spots of 5-15 mm diameter on both the leaf surface. The spots coalesce to form irregular patches of varying size leading to premature defoliation. The infection is also seen on stem and petiole forming spots of varying lengths. Dark linear spots also occur on pods causing drying shedding.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The hypha of the fungus is irregularly septate, light brown and thick walled. Conidiophores are produced in cluster and are 1-3 septate, hyaline at the tip and light brown coloured at base. Conidia are elongated, 7-10 septate, hyaline to light yellow, broad at the base and tapering towards the apex.

Disease Cycle

The fungus is externally and internally seed-borne. The fungus also survives in plant debris. Primary infection may be from the seeds and infected debris. The secondary spread is through wind-borne conidia.

Management

- Treat the seeds with Carbendazim or Thiram at 2g/kg.
- Spray with Mancozeb at 2kg/ha.

Wilt-*Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *sesami*

Symptoms

The disease appears as yellowing, drooping and withering of leaves. The plants gradually wither, show wilting symptoms leading to drying. The infected portions of root and stem show long, dark black streaks of vascular necrosis.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces [macroconidia](#), [microconidia](#) and [chlamydospores](#). Macroconidia are falcate shape, hyaline and 5-9 celled. Microconidia are hyaline, thin walled, unicellular and ovoid. The dark walled chlamydospores are also produced.

Disease Cycle

The fungus survives in the soil in the infected plant debris. It is also seed-borne and primary infection occurs through infected seeds or through chlamydospores in soil. The secondary infection may be caused by conidia disseminated by rain splash and irrigation water.

Management

- Treat these seeds with Thiram or Carbendazim at 2g/kg
- Seed treatment with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4g/kg.
- Apply heavy doses of green leaf manure or farm yard manure.

Stem blight -*Phytophthora parasitica* var. *sesami*

Symptoms

Black coloured lesions appear on the stem near the soil level. The disease spreads further and affects branches and may girdle the stem, resulting in the death of the plant. Leaves may also show water-soaked patches and spread till the leaves wither. Infection may be seen on flowers and capsules. Infected capsules are poorly developed with shriveled seeds.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces non-septate, hyaline mycelium. The [sporangiophores](#) are hyaline and branched sympodially and bear [sporangia](#). The sporangia are hyaline and spherical with a prominent apical papilla. The oospores are smooth, spherical and thick walled.

Favourable Conditions

- Prolonged rainfall,
- Low temperature (25°C)
- High relative humidity (above 90 per cent)

Disease Cycle

The fungus can survive in the soil through dormant mycelium and [oospores](#). The seeds also carry the fungus as dormant mycelium, which causes the primary infection. Secondary spread of the disease is through wind-borne [sporangia](#).

Management

- Treat the seeds with captan or thiram at 2g/kg or metalaxyl @ 4g/kg.
- Avoid continuous cropping of sesamum in the same field.
- Remove and destroy infected plant debris.

- Spray metalaxyl 1kg/ha.

Powdery mildew- *Erysipheichoracearum* (Syn: *Oidium acanthospermi*)

Symptoms

Initially greyish-white powdery growth appears on the upper surface of leaves. When several spots coalesce, the entire leaf surface may be covered with powdery coating. In severe cases, the infection may be seen on the flowers and young capsules, leading to premature shedding. These severely affected leaves may be twisted and malformed. In the advanced stages of infection, the mycelial growth changes to dark or black because of development of [cleistothecia](#).



Symptoms

Pathogen

The Pathogen produces hyaline, septate mycelium which is extrophytic and sends [haustoria](#) into the host epidermis. [Conidiophores](#) arise from the primary mycelium and are short and non septate bearing conidia in long chains. The conidia are ellipsoid or barrel-shaped, single celled and hyaline. The [cleistothecia](#) are dark, globose with the hyaline or pale brown myceloid appendages. The [asci](#) are ovate and each ascus produces 2-3 ascospores, which are thin walled, elliptical and pale brown in colour.

Favourable Conditions

- Dry humid weather.
- Low relative humidity.

Disease Cycle

The Pathogen is an [obligate parasite](#) and disease perennates through cleistothecia in the infected plant debris in soil. The [ascospores](#) from the cleistothecia cause primary infection. The secondary spread is through wind-borne conidia.

Management

- Remove the infected plant debris and destroy.
- Spray wettable sulphur at 2.5 kg/ha or karathane 1L/ha repeat after 15 days.

Bacterial leafspot-

[Xanthomonas campestris pv. sesami](#) Symptoms

Initially water-soaked spots appear on the undersurface of the leaf and then on the upper surface. They increase in size, become angular and restricted by veins and dark brown in color. Several spots coalesce together forming irregular brown patches and cause drying of leaves. The reddish brown lesions may also occur on petioles and stem.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The bacterium is a [Gram negative](#) rod with a [monotrichous](#) flagellum.

Disease cycle

The bacterium survives in the infected plant debris and in seeds. The secondary spread is by rain water.

Management

- Remove and burn infected plant debris.

- Spray [Streptomycin sulphate](#) or [oxytetracycline hydrochloride](#) or [streptocyclin](#) at 100g/ha.

Bacterial leaf spot- [Pseudomonas sesami](#)

Symptoms

The disease appears as water-soaked yellow specks on the upper surface of the leaves. They enlarge and become angular as restricted by veins and veinlets. The colour of spot may be dark brown with shiny oozes of bacterial masses.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The bacterium is gram negative aerobic rod with one or more polar flagella.

Disease cycle

The bacterium remains viable in the infected plant tissues. It is internally seedborne and secondary spread through rain splash and storms.

Management

- Keep the field free of infected plant debris.
- Spray with [Streptomycin sulphate](#) or [oxytetracycline hydrochloride](#) or [streptocyclin](#) at 100g/ha.

Phyllody- [Phytoplasma](#)

Symptoms

The symptoms start with vein clearing of leaves. The disease manifests itself mostly during flowering stage, when the floral parts are transformed into green leafy structures, which

grow profusely. The flower is rendered sterile. The veins of [phylloid](#) structure are thick and prominent. The plant is stunted with reduced internodes and abnormal branching.



Symptoms

Pathogen

It is caused by [pleomorphic mycoplasma](#) like bodies present in sieve tube of affected plants, now designated as a phytoplasmal disease.

Disease cycle

The pathogen has a wide host range and survives on alternate hosts like [Brassicacampestris var. toria](#), [B. rapa](#), [Cicer arietinum](#), [Crotalaria sp.](#), [Trifolium sp.](#), [Arachis hypogaea](#) which serve as source of inoculum. The disease is transmitted by jassid, [Orosius albicinctus](#). Optimum acquisition period of vector is 3-4 days and inoculation feeding period is 30 minutes. The [incubation period](#) of the pathogen in leaf hoppers may be 15-63 days and 13-61 days in sesame. Nymphs are incapable of transmitting the phytoplasma. Vector population is more during summer and less during winter months.

Management

- Remove all the reservoir and weed hosts.
- Avoid growing sesame near cotton, groundnut and grain legumes.
- Rogue out the infected plants periodically.
- Spray Monocrotophos or Dimethoate at 500ml/hato control the jassids

- Soil treatment with Thirnet 10G @ 10 kg/ha or [Phorate](#) 10 G @ 11 kg/ha at the time of sowing.

Minor disease

Anthracnose -[Colletotrichum sp.](#)

Dark brown lesions on leaf stem and capsules with black [acervuli](#) in the central portion.

8. Diseases of Cotton

Wilt - *Fusarium oxysporum* sp. *vasinfectum* Symptoms

The disease affects the crop at all stages. The earliest symptoms appear on the seedlings in the cotyledons which turn yellow and then brown. The base of petiole shows brown ring, followed by wilting and drying of the seedlings. In young and grown up plants, the first symptom is yellowing of edges of leaves and area around the veins i.e. discoloration starts from the margin and spreads towards the midrib. The leaves lose their turgidity, gradually turn brown, droop and finally drop off.

Symptoms start from the older leaves at the base, followed by younger ones towards the top, finally involving the branches and the whole plant. The defoliation or wilting may be complete leaving the stem alone standing in the field. Sometimes partial wilting occurs; where in only one portion of the plant is affected, the other remaining free. The taproot is usually stunted with less abundant laterals.



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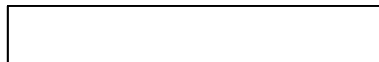
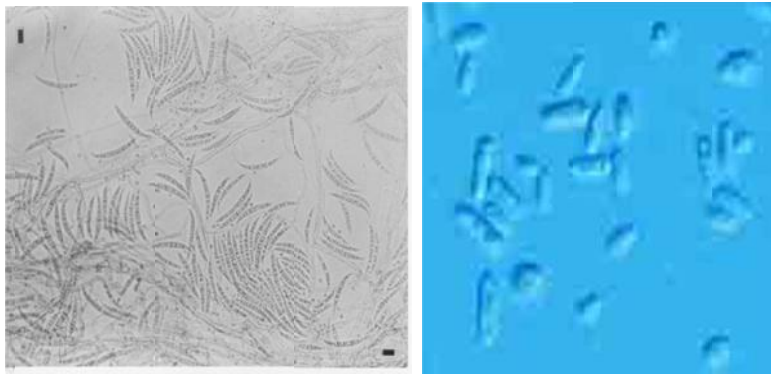
Browning or blackening of vascular tissues is the other important symptom, black streaks or stripes may be seen extending upwards to the branches and downwards to lateral roots. In severe cases, discolouration may extend throughout the plant starting from roots extending to stem, leaves and even bolls. In transverse section, discoloured ring is seen in the woody tissues of stem. The plants affected later in the season are stunted with fewer bolls which are very small and open before they mature.

Pathogen

Macroconidia are 1 to 5 septate, hyaline, thin walled, [falcate](#) with tapering ends. The [microconidia](#) are hyaline, thin walled, spherical or elliptical, single or two celled.

[Chlamydospores](#) are dark coloured and thick walled. The fungus also produces a [vivotoxin](#),

[Fusaric acid](#) which is partially responsible for wilting of the plants.



Favourable Conditions

- Soil temperature of 20-30°C
- Hot and dry periods followed by rains
- Heavy black soils with an alkaline reaction
- Increased doses of nitrogen and phosphatic fertilizers
- Wounds caused by nematode ([Meloidogyne incognita](#)) and grubs of [Ashweevil](#) ([Mylocerus pustulatus](#)).

Disease cycle

The fungus can survive in soil as saprophyte for many years and chlamydospores act as resting spores. The pathogen is both externally and internally seed-borne. The primary infection is mainly from dormant hyphae and chlamydospores in the soil. The secondary spread is through conidia and chlamydospores which are disseminated by wind and irrigation water.

Management

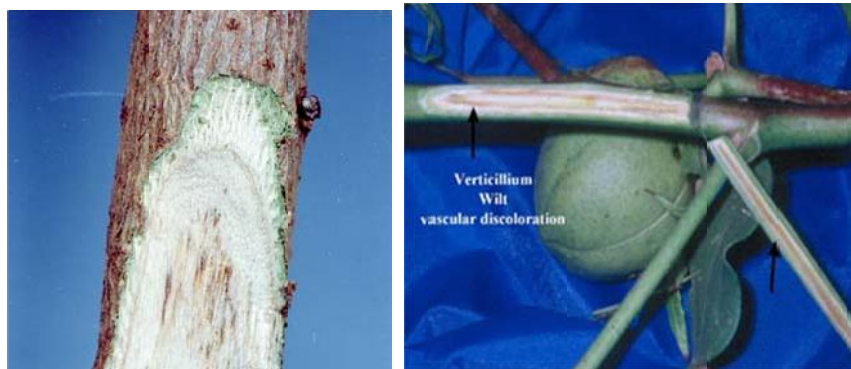
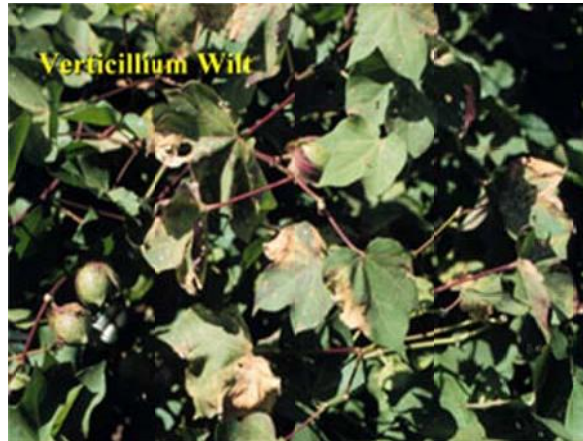
- Treat the acid delinted seeds with Carboxin or Carbendazim at 2g/kg.
- Remove and burn the infected plant debris in the soil after deep summer ploughing during June-July.
- Apply increased doses of potash with a balanced dose of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers.
- Apply heavy doses of farmyard manure or other organic manures. Follow mixed cropping with non-host plants.
- Grow disease resistant varieties of *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense* like Varalakshmi, Vijay Pratap, Jayadhar and Verum.
- Spot drench with Carbendazim 1g/litre.

Verticillium wilt - [Verticillium dahliae](#)

Symptoms

The symptoms are seen when the crop is in squares and bolls. Plants infected at early stages are severely stunted. The first symptoms can be seen as bronzing of veins. It is followed by interveinal chlorosis and yellowing of leaves. Finally the leaves begin to dry, giving a scorched appearance. At this stage, the characteristic diagnostic feature is the drying of the leaf margins and areas between veins, which gives a “[Tiger stripe](#)” or “[Tiger claw](#)” appearance.

The affected leaves fall off leaving the branches barren. Infected stem and roots, when split open, show a pinkish discolouration of the woody tissue which may taper off into longitudinal streaks in the upper parts and branches. The infected leaf also shows brown spots at the end of the petioles. The affected plants may bear a few smaller bolls with immature lint.



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Pathogen

The fungus produces hyaline, septate mycelium and two types of spores. The conidia are single celled, hyaline, spherical to oval, borne singly on verticillate conidiophores. The micro sclerotia are globose to oblong, measuring 48-120 X 26-45um.

Favourable Conditions

- Low temperature of 15-20°C,
- Low lying and ill-drained soils,
- Heavy soils with alkaline reaction
- Heavy doses of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Disease Cycle

The fungus also infects other hosts like brinjal, chilli, tobacco and bhendi. The fungus can survive in the infected plant debris and in soils as micro sclerotia up to 14 years.

These seeds also carry the micro sclerotia and conidia in the fuzz. The primary spread is through the

micro sclerotia or conidia in the soil. The secondary spread is through the contact of diseased roots to healthy ones and through dissemination of infected plant parts through irrigation water and other implements.

Management

- Treat the delinted seeds with [Carboxin](#) or [Carbendazim](#) at 2g/kg.
- Remove and destroy the infected plant debris after deep ploughing in summer months (June-July).
- Apply heavy doses of farmyard manure or compost at 100t/ha.
- Follow crop rotation by growing paddy or lucerne or chrysanthemum for 2-3 years.
- Spot drench with 0.05g/l benomyl or carbendazim 500mg/l.
- Grow disease resistant varieties like Sujatha, Suvin and CBS 156 and tolerant variety like MCU 5 WT.

Rootrot-[Rhizoctonia solani](#)

Symptoms

The pathogen causes three types of symptoms viz., seedling disease, sore-shin and rootrot. Germinating seedlings and seedlings of one to two weeks old are attacked by the fungus at the hypocotyl and cause black lesions, girdling of stem and death of the seedling, causing large gaps in the field. In sore-shin stage (4 to 6 weeks old plants), dark reddish-brown cankers are formed on the stems near the soil surface, later turning dark black and plant breaks at the collar region leading to drying of the leaves and subsequently the entire plant.





Typical root rot symptom appears normally at the time of maturity of the plants. The most prominent symptom is sudden and complete wilting of plants in patches. Initially, all the leaves droop suddenly and die within a day or two. The affected plants when pulled reveal the rotting of the entire root system except the taproot and few laterals. The bark of the affected plant shreds and even extends above ground level. In badly affected plants the woody portions may become black and brittle. A large number of dark brown sclerotia are seen on the wood or on the shredded bark.

Pathogen

The fungal hyphae are septate and fairly thick and produce black, irregular sclerotia which measure 100 μm in diameter.

Favourable conditions

- Dry weather following heavy rains,
- High soil temperature (35-39°C),
- Cultivation of favourable hosts like vegetables,
- Oilseeds and legumes preceding cotton
- Wounds caused by [ash weevil](#) grubs and nematodes.

Disease cycle

The disease is mainly soil-borne and the pathogen can survive in the soil as [sclerotia](#) for several years. The spread is through sclerotia which are disseminated by irrigation water, implements, and other cultural operations.

Management

- Treat the seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) @ 4g/kg of seed.
- Spot drench with 0.1% Carbendazim.

- Apply farmyard manure at 10t/ha or neem cake at 150Kg/ha.
- Adjust the sowing time, early sowing (First Week of April) or late sowing (Last week of June) so that crop escapes the high soil temperature conditions.
- Adopt intercropping with sorghum or mothbean ([Phaseolusaconitifolius](#)) to lower the soil temperature.

Anthracnose-[Colletotrichumcapsici](#)

Symptoms

The pathogen infects the seedlings and produces small reddish circular spots on the cotyledons and primary leaves. The lesions develop on the collar region, stem may be girdled, causing seedling to wilt and die. In mature plants, the fungus attacks the stem, leading to stem splitting and shredding of bark. The most common symptom is boll spotting. Small water soaked, circular, reddish brown depressed spots appear on the bolls. The lint is stained to yellow or brown, becomes a solid brittle mass of fibre. The infected bolls cease to grow and burst and dry up prematurely.



oms

Pathogen

The pathogen forms large number of [acervuli](#) on the infected parts. The [conidiophores](#) are slightly curved, short, and club shaped. The [conidia](#) are hyaline and [falcate](#), borne single on the conidiophores. Numerous black coloured and thick walled setae are also produced in [acervulus](#).

Favourable Conditions

- Prolonged rainfall at the time of boll formation
- Close planting.

Disease Cycle

The pathogen survives as dormant mycelium in the seed or as conidia on the Surface of seeds for about a year. The pathogen also perpetuates on the rotten bolls and other plant debris in the soil. The secondary spread is by air-borne conidia. The pathogen also survives in the weed hosts viz., [*AristolachiabRACTIATA*](#) and [*Hibiscus diversifolius*](#).

Management

- Treat the delinted seeds with Carbendazim or Carboxin or Thiram or Captan at 2g/kg.
- Remove and burn the infected plant debris and bolls in the soil.
- Rogue out the weed hosts.
- Spray the crop at boll formation stage with Mancozeb 2kg or Copper oxychloride 2.5 kg or Carbendazim 500g/ha.

Grey or Areolate mildew - [*Ramularia areola*](#) (Sexual stage: [*Mycosphaerella areola*](#))

Symptoms

The disease usually appears on the undersurface of the bottom leaves when the crop is nearing maturity. Irregular to angular pale translucent lesions which measure 1-10mm (usually 3-4mm) develop on the lower surface, usually bound by veinlets. On the upper surface, the lesions appear as light green or yellow green specks.

A frosty or whitish grey powdery growth, consisting of conidiophores of the fungus, appears on the lower surface. When several spots coalesce, the entire leaf surface is covered by white to grey powdery growth. White or grey powdery growth may occur on the upper surface also. The infection spreads to upper leaves and entire plant may be affected. The affected leaves dry up from margin, cup inward; turn yellowish brown and fall off prematurely.



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Pathogen

The pathogen produces [endophytic](#), septate mycelium. Conidiophores are short, hyaline and branched at the base. Conidia are borne singly or in chains at the tips of conidiophores. The conidia are hyaline, irregularly oblong with pointed ends, sometimes rounded to flattened ends, unicellular or 1-3 septate. The perfect stage of the fungus produces [perithecia](#) containing many [asci](#). The [ascospores](#) are hyaline and usually two celled.

Favourable Conditions

- Wet humid conditions during winter cotton season,
- Intermittent rains during North-East monsoon season,
- Low temperature (20-30°C) during October-January,
- Close planting, excessive application of nitrogenous fertilizers,
- Very early sowing or very late sowing of cotton

Disease cycle

The pathogen survives during the summer in the infected crop residues. The perennial cotton plants and self-sown cotton plants also harbour the pathogen during summer months. The primary infection is through conidia from infected plant debris and secondary spread is through wind, rain splash, irrigation water and implements.

Management

- Remove and burn the infected crop residues.
- Rogue out the self-sown cotton plants during summer months.
- Avoid excessive application of nitrogenous fertilizers/manures.
- Adopt the correct spacing based on soil conditions and varieties.
- Spray the crop with Carbendazim at 500g/ha, repeat after a week.
- Grow the resistant varieties like Sujatha and Varalakshmi.

Bollrot-Fungal complex

It is a complex disease caused by several fungal pathogens viz., [Fusarium moniliforme](#), [Colletotrichum capsici](#), [Aspergillus flavus](#), [A. niger](#), [Rhizopus nigricans](#), [Nematosporanagpuri](#) and [Botryodiplodiasp.](#)

Symptoms

Initially, the disease appears as small brown or black dots which later enlarge to cover the entire bolls. Infection spreads to inner tissues and rotting of seeds and lint occur. The bolls never burst open and fall off and prematurely. In some cases, the rotting may be external, causing rotting of the pericarp leaving the internal tissues free. On the affected bolls, a large number of fruiting bodies of fungi are observed depending upon the nature of the fungi involved.



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Favourable Conditions

- Heavy rainfall during the square and boll formation stage,
- Wounds caused by the insects,
- Especially red cotton bug *Dysdercus ingulata*
- Close spacing and excessive nitrogen application.

Disease Cycle

The fungus survives in the infected bolls in the soil. The insects mainly help in the spread of the disease. The fungus makes its entry only through wounds caused by the insects. The secondary spread of the disease is also through air-borne conidia.

Management

- Adopt optimum spacing.
- Apply the recommended doses of fertilizers.
- Spray [Copper oxychloride](#) 2.5kg along with an insecticide for bollworm from 45th day at 15 days interval.
- Two or three sprays are necessary.

Leaf blight - [Alternaria macrospora](#)

Symptoms

The disease may occur in all stages but more severe when plants are 45-60 days old. Small, pale to brown, irregular or round spots, measuring 0.5 to 6mm diameter, may appear on the leaves. Each spot has a central lesion surrounded by concentric rings. Several spots coalesce together to form blighted areas. The affected leaves become brittle and fall off. Sometimes stem lesions are also seen. In severe cases, the spots may appear on bracts and bolls.



ptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces dark brown, short, 1-8 septate, irregularly bent conidiophores with a single conidium at the apex. The conidia are obclavate, light to dark brown in colour with 3-9 transverse septa and four longitudinal septa, with a prominent beak.



Favourable Conditions

- High humidity.

- Intermittent rains.
- Moderate temperature of 25-28°C.

Disease cycle

The pathogen survives in the dead leaves as dormant mycelium. The pathogen primarily spreads through irrigation water. The secondary spread is mainly by airborne conidia.

Management

- Remove and destroy the infected plant residues.
- Spray Mancozeb 2kg or Copper oxychloride at 2kg/ha at the initiation of the disease. Four to five sprays may be given at 15 days interval.

Bacterial blight - *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv.

malvacearum Symptoms

The bacterium attacks all stages from seed to harvest. Usually five common phases of symptoms are noticed.

i) Seedling blight:

Small, water-soaked, circular or irregular lesions develop on the cotyledons, later, the infection spreads to stem through petiole and cause withering and death of seedlings.

ii) Angular leaf spot:

Small, dark green, water soaked areas develop on lower surface of leaves, enlarge gradually and become angular when restricted by veins and veinlets and spots are visible on both the surface of leaves. As the lesions become older, they turn reddish brown colour and infection spreads to veins and veinlets.

iii) Vein blight or vein necrosis or black vein:

The infection of veins cause blackening of the veins and veinlets, gives a typical 'blighting' appearance. On the lower surface of the leaf, bacterial oozes are formed as crusts or scales. The affected leaves become crinkled and twisted inward and show withering. The infection also spreads from veins to petiole and cause blighting leading to defoliation.

iv) Black arm:

On the stem and fruiting branches, dark brown to black lesions are formed, which may girdle the stem and branches to cause premature drooping off of the leaves, cracking of stem and

gummosis, resulting in breaking of the stem and hang typically as dry black twig to give a characteristic “black arm” symptom.

v) Squarerot/Bollrot:

On the bolls, water soaked lesions appear and turn into dark black and sunken irregular spots. The infections slowly spread to entire boll and shedding occurs. The infection on mature bolls lead to premature bursting. The bacterium spreads inside the boll and lint gets stained yellow because of bacterial ooze and loses its appearance and market value. The pathogen also infects the seed and causes reduction in size and viability of the seeds.



Angular leaf spot



Bacterial blight lesions on leaf and the blackleg symptom on the leaf petiole



Bollrot

Pathogen

The [bacterium](#) is a short rod with a single polar [flagellum](#). It is [Gram negative](#), non-spore forming and measures 1.0-1.2 X 0.7-0.9 μm .

Favorable Conditions

- Optimum soil temperature of 28°C,
- High atmospheric temperature of 30-40°C,
- Relative humidity of 85 percent, early sowing,
- Delayed thinning,
- Poor tillage, late irrigation and
- Potassium deficiency in soil.
- Rain followed by bright sunshine during the months of October and November are highly favorable.

Disease Cycle

The bacterium survives on infected, dried plant debris in soil for several years. The bacterium is also seed-borne and remains in the form of slimy mass on the fuzz of seed coat. The bacterium also attacks other hosts like *Thumbergia thespesioides*, *Eriodendron anfructuosum* and [Jatropha curcus](#). The primary infection starts mainly from the seed-borne bacterium. The secondary spread of the bacteria may be through wind, wind blown rain splash, irrigation water, insects and other implements.

Management

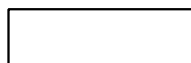
- Delint the cotton seeds with concentrated sulphuric acid at 100ml/kg of seed. Treat the delinted seeds with carboxin or oxycarboxin at 2 g/kg or soak the seeds in 1000 ppm [Streptomycin sulphate](#) overnight.
- Remove and destroy the infected plant debris. Rogue out the volunteer cotton plants and weed hosts.

- Follow crop rotation with non-host crops.
- Early thinning and early earthing up with potash.
- Grow resistant varieties like Sujatha, 1412 and CRH71.
- Spray with [Streptomycin sulphate](#) + [Tetracycline](#) mixture 100 g along with [Copper oxychloride](#) at 1.25 Kg/ha.

Leaf Curl Disease - [Cotton leaf curl virus](#)

Symptoms

Downward and upward curling of leaves and thickening of veins and enlargement on underside of leaves are the characteristic symptoms of the disease. In severe infection all the leaves are curled and growth retarded. Boll bearing capacity is reduced.



Pathogen

It is caused by [Cotton leaf curl virus](#) - a [begomovirus](#) of family *Geminiviridae*. The virions are typical [geminata](#) particles, [ss circular DNA, bipartite genome](#) with DNA-A and DNA-B components.

Disease Cycle

The primary source is the [viruliferous whitefly](#) vector [Bemisia tabaci](#). The alternate hosts and cultivated hosts serve as virus reservoirs throughout the year. Not transmitted by seed or contact.

Management

- Management of planting date to avoid peak vector population.
- Elimination of volunteer perennial cotton and alternate hosts including malvaceous hosts like wild okra
- Use of fungus [Paecilomyces farinosus](#) which parasitizes [B. tabaci](#). It brings down vector population.
- Foliar application of neem leaf extract and 1% neem oil resulted in 80% reduction of virus transmission.
- Vector management by application of granular [systemic insecticides](#).

Stenosis or Small leaf -

[Phytoplasma](#) Symptoms

The disease appears when the plants are two to three months old and affected plants are stunted. They put forth numerous extremely small leaves in cluster and the dormant buds are stimulated resulting in profuse vegetative growth. The leaves are disfigured and variously lobed. Flowers remain small with abortive ovary.

Large number of flower buds and young seeds. Root system is poorly developed and can be easily pulled out. Sometimes, the disease affects only the base of the plant, resulting in the formation of clump of short branches which bear small and deformed leaves. The mode of transmission of disease and the role of vector are unknown.

Management

- Rogue out the infected plants periodically.
- Cotton varieties developed from *Gossypium hirsutum* and *G. barbadense* are found to be resistant to the disease.

Minor diseases

Leafspot-*Cercospora gossypina*

Round or irregular grayish spots with dark brown or blackish borders appear on older leaves.

Myrothecium leafspot-*Myrothecium roridum*

Reddish spots of 0.5 mm- 1 cm diameter may appear near the margins of the leaves. The affected portions fall off leaving irregular shot holes in the leaves.

Rust-*Phakopsora desmii*

Yellowish brown raised pustules appear on the lower surface of leaves with rusty spores. Several pustules join to give rusty appearance to entire leaf. The sori may also develop on bolls.

Sooty mould-*Capnodium* sp.

Dark specks appear on the leaves and bolls, slowly spread and black powdery growth covers the entire leaf area and bolls.

9. Diseases of Red Gram

Wilt- *Fusarium udum*

Symptoms

The disease may appear from early stages of plant growth (4-6 week old plant) up to flowering and podding. The disease appears as gradual withering and drying of plants. Yellowing of leaves and blackening of stem starting from collar to branches which gradually result in drooping and premature drying of leaves, stems, branches and finally death of plant. Vascular tissues exhibit brown discoloration. Often only one side of the stem and root system is affected resulting in partial wilting.

Pathogen

The fungus produces hyaline, septate mycelium. *Microconidia* are hyaline, small, elliptical or curved, single celled or two celled. *Macroconidia* are also hyaline, thin walled, linear, curved or fusoid, pointed at both ends with 3-4 septa. The fungus also produces thick walled, spherical or oval, terminal or intercalary *chlamydospores* singly or in chains of 2 to 3.

Favourable conditions

- Soil temperature of 17-25°C.
- Continuous cultivation of red gram in the same field.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected stubbles in the field. The primary spread is by soil-borne chlamydospores and also by infected seed. Chlamydospores remain viable in soil for 8-20 years. The secondary spread in the field is through irrigation water and implements.

Management

- Treat the seeds with *Trichoderma viride* at 4 g/kg (10^6 cfu/g).
- Avoid successive cultivation of red gram in the same field.
- Crop rotation with tobacco.
- Mixed cropping with sorghum in the field.
- Grow resistant cultivars like Sharad, Jawahar, Maruthi, Malviya Arhar-2, C-11, Pusa-9, Narendra Arhar-1 and Birsa Arhar-1

Dry root rot- *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Sclerotial stage: *Rhizoctonia bataticola*)

Symptoms

The disease occurs both in young seedlings and grown up plants. Infected seedlings can show reddish brown discoloration at collar region. The lower leaves show yellowing, drooping and premature defoliation. The discolored area later turns to black and sudden death of the plants occurs in patches.

The bark near the collar region shows shredding. The plant can be easily pulled off leaving dark rotten root in the ground. Minute dark sclerotia are seen in the shredded bark and root tissues. Large number of brown dots seen on the stem portion represents the pycnidial stage of the fungus.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces dark, brown, filamentous hyphae and constrictions are seen in hyphal branches at the junction with main hyphae. [Sclerotia](#) are jet black, smooth, hard, minute, globose and 110-130µm in diameter. The [pycnidia](#) are dark brown and ostiolated. [Conidiophores\(phialides\)](#) are hyaline, short, obpyriform to cylindrical, develop from the inner walls of the [pycnidium](#). The [conidia \(Pycnidiospores\)](#) are hyaline, single celled and ellipsoid to ovoid.

Favourable Conditions

- Prolonged drought followed by irrigation.
- High temperature of 28-35°C.

Disease cycle

The primary spread of the disease is by seed and soil. Secondary spread is by air-borne conidia. The pathogen survives as sclerotia in the soil as facultative parasite and in dead host debris.

Management

- Treat the seeds with carbendazim or thiram at 2g/kg or pellet the seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4 g/kg (10^6 cfu/g).
- Apply heavy doses of farm yard manure or green leaf manure like [Gliricidia maculata](#) at 10 t/ha or apply Neemcake at 150 kg/ha.

Powdery mildew- [Leveillulataurica](#)

Symptoms

White powdery growth of the fungus can be seen on the lower surface of leaves. The corresponding areas in upper surface show pale yellow discoloration. The white powdery mass consists of conidiophores and conidia of the fungus. In severe cases, the white growth can be seen on the upper surface also. The severe infection of the fungus leads to premature shedding of leaves and plant remains barren.



Symptoms

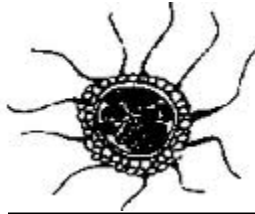
Pathogen

The fungus is [intercellular](#) and absorbs nutrition through [haustoria](#). The [conidiophores](#), which arise through stomata, are hyaline, long, non septate, slender and rarely branched and bear single [conidium](#) at the tip. The [conidia](#) are hyaline, single celled and elliptical or clavate. The

fungus also produces black, globose [cleistothecia](#) with simple myceloid [appendages](#). They contain 9-20 cylindrical asci. Each [ascus](#) contains 3-5 [ascospores](#) which are also hyaline and [unicellular](#).



Conidia and conidiophores



Cleistothecium

Favourable Conditions

- Dry humid weather following rainfall.

Disease Cycle

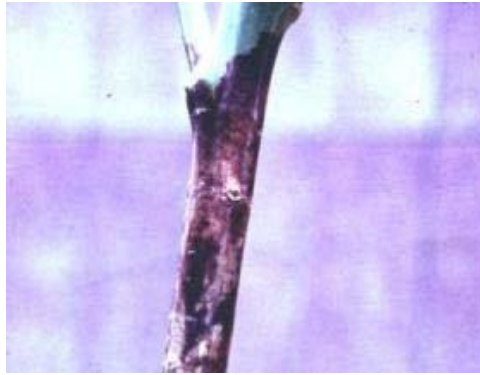
The fungus survives in the soil through [cleistothecia](#) and [ascospores](#) from asci infect the first lower most leaves near the soil level. Secondary spread is by air-borne conidia.

Management

Spray [Carbendazim](#) 500g/ha or [Wettable sulphur](#) 2 kg/ha at the initiation of the disease and repeat after 15 days.

Stem blight - [Phytophthora drechsleri](#) sp. [cajani](#) Symptoms

Initially purple to dark brown necrotic lesions girdle the basal portion of the stem and later may occur on aerial parts. Initially lesions are small and smooth, later enlarging and slightly depressed. Infected tissues become soft and whole plant dies. In grown up plants, infection is mostly confined to basal portions of the stem. The infected bark becomes brown and the tissue softens causing the plant to collapse. In leaf, localized yellowing starts from the tip and margin and gradually extends towards the mid-rib. The centre of the spots later turns brown and hard. The spots increase in size and cover a major portion of the lamina, leading to drying.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Fungus produces hyaline, coenocytic mycelium. The sporangiophores are hyaline bearing ovate or pyriform, non-papillate sporangia. Each sporangium produces 8-20 zoospores. Oospores are globose, light brown, smooth and thick walled.

Favourable Conditions

- Soils with poor drainage,
- Low lying areas,
- Heavy rain during the months of July- September
- High temperature (28-30°C).

Disease Cycle

The fungus survives in the soil and plant debris in the form of oospores. Primary infection is from oospores and secondary spread of the disease by zoospores from sporangia. Rain splash and irrigation water help for the movement of zoospores.

Management

- Treat the seeds with Metalaxyl at 6 g/kg.
- Spray Metalaxyl at 500g/ha.
- Adjust the sowing time so that crop growth should not coincide with heavy rainfall.

Leaf spot - Cercospora indica

Symptoms

Small, light brown coloured spots appear on leaves. The spots later become dark brown and the infected portions drop off leaving shoot holes symptoms. When several spots join together, irregular necrotic blotches develop and premature defoliation occurs. In severe cases, black lesions develop on petioles and stem.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces large number of whip-like, hyaline, 7-9 septate conidia in group on the conidiophores which are light to dark brown in colour.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected plant tissues. The disease is spread by airborne conidia.

Management

- Remove the infected plant debris and destroy.
- Spray Mancozeb 2kg or Carbendazim 500g/ha soon after the appearance of symptom and repeat after a fortnight.

Sterility Mosaic Disease (SMD) - Pigeonpea sterility mosaic virus (PPSMV) Symptoms

The Symptoms are characterized by bushy and pale green appearance of plants. The excessive vegetative growth, stunting, prominent mosaic on leaves and reduction in leaf size. Complete or partial cessation of flowering leads to sterility. Depending on genotype three types of symptoms are recognized. They are

- a. Severe mosaic and sterility
- b. Mild mosaic and partial sterility
- c. Chlorotic ringspot without any noticeable sterility.



Light and dark green mosaic pattern on leaves



Sterility mosaic infected plant (right side) without flowers and pods compared to normal plant (left side)

Pathogen

It is caused by [Pigeonpea sterility mosaic virus](#) (PPSMV). The virions are slender highly [flexuous filamentous](#) virus like particles (VLPS) of 3-10 nm diameter, a major virus specific proteins of 32kDa and 5-7 major RNA species of 0.8-6.8kb.

Disease cycle

It is not transmitted by infectious sap. It is transmitted by an [eriophyid mite, *Aceria cajani*](#) in a semipersistent manner, mites retaining the virus 12-13 hours, eggs of mites do not transmit. The self grown red gram plants and perennial species act as source of virus inoculum. **Management**

- Rogue out infected plants up to 40 days after sowing.
- Spray [Monocrotophos](#) at 500 ml/ha soon after appearance of the disease and if necessary, repeat after 15 days.

- Growresistantgenotypes/cultivarslikeICP7035,VR3,Purple1,DA11,DA32,ICP 6997, Bahar, BSMR 235, ICP 7198, PR 5149, ICP 8861 and Bhavanisagar 1.

Minor diseases

Seedlingblight- *Sclerotium rolfsii*

Small brown water soaked dots appear near collar region, expands to irregular necrotic spots leading to girdling of stem and death of seedling.

Brown blotch - *Collettrichumcapsici*

Purple brown discolouration occurs mainly on pods but also on petioles, leaf veins, stems and peduncles. Pods become distorted and have black fruiting bodies.

Anthracnose-*Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*(*Glomerellacingulata*)

Black lesions develop on stem which spreads to leaf petiole and leaves. Black sunken lesions also develop on pod.

Stem rot - *Pythium aphanidermatum*

Seedlings of 2-3 weeks old are severely attacked at collar region and death occurs immediately. Greyish green water soaked lesions develop on adult plants, leading to girdling of stem.

Leaf spot -*Alternaria alternata*

Water soaked, circular to irregular spots occur. The centre of the spot is straw coloured with raised reddish brown margins.

Haloblight- *Pseudomonas phaseolicola*

Small brown spots appear on leaves and develop a chlorotic halo. The spots extend and form dried brown zone. Brown elongated streaks appear on petioles, stem and pods.

There are two other virus diseases reported on pigeonpea, mosaic and yellow mosaic transmitted by aphids and whiteflies which are of sporadic occurrence only.

10. Diseases of Blackgram

Powdery mildew- *Erysiphe polygoni*

Symptoms

Small, irregular powdery spots appear on the upper surface of the leaves, sometimes on both the surfaces. The disease becomes severe during flowering and pod development stage. The white powdery spots completely cover the leaves, petioles, stem and even the pods. The plant assumes greyish white appearance; leaves turn yellow and finally shed. Often pods are malformed and small with few ill-filled seeds.



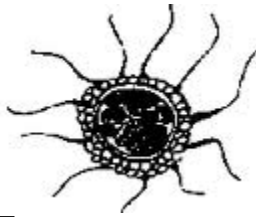
Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus is ectophytic, spreading on the surface of the leaf, sending haustoria into the epidermal cells. Conidiophores arise vertically from the leaf surface, bearing conidia in short chains. Conidia are hyaline, thin walled, elliptical or barrel shaped or cylindrical and single celled. Later in the season, cleistothecia appear as minute, black, globose structures with myceloid appendages. Each cleistothecium contains 4-8 asci and each ascus contains 3-8 ascospores which are elliptical, hyaline and single celled.



Conidia and conidiophores



Cleistothecium

Favourable Conditions

- Warm humid weather.
- The disease is severe generally during late kharif and rabi seasons.

Disease cycle

The Pathogen is an obligate parasite and survives as cleistothecia in the infected plant debris. Primary infection is usually from ascospores from perennating cleistothecia. The secondary spread is carried out by the air-borne conidia. Rain splash also helps in the spread of the disease.

Management

- Remove and destroy infected plant debris.
- Spray [Carbendazim](#) 500g or [Wettable sulphur](#) 2kg or [Tridemorph](#) 500ml/ha at the initiation of disease and repeat 15 days later.

Anthracnose-

[Colletotrichum lindemuthianum](#) (Sexual stage: [Glomerella lindemuthianum](#)) **Symptoms**

The symptom can be observed in all aerial parts of the plants and at any stage of crop growth. The fungus produces dark brown to black sunken lesions on the hypocotyl area and cause death of the seedlings. Small angular brown lesions appear on leaves, mostly adjacent to veins, which later become greyish white centre with dark brown or reddish margin.

The lesions may be seen on the petioles and stem. The prominent symptom is seen on the pods. Minute water soaked lesion appears on the pods initially and becomes brown and enlarges to form circular, depressed spot with dark centre with bright red or yellow margin. Several spots join to cause necrotic areas with acervuli. The infected pods have discolored seeds.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus mycelium is septate, hyaline and branched. [Conidia](#) are produced in [acervuli](#), arise from the stroma beneath the epidermis and later rupture to become erumpent. A few dark coloured, septate setae are seen in the [acervulus](#). The [conidiophores](#) are hyaline and short and bear oblong or cylindrical, hyaline, thinwalled, single celled conidia with oil globules. The perfect stage of the fungus produces [perithecia](#) with limited number of [asci](#), which contain typically 8 [ascospores](#) which are one or two celled with a central oil globule.

Favourable Conditions

- High relative humidity (Above 90 percent),
- Low temperature (15-20° C)
- Cool rainy days.

Disease cycle

The fungus is seed-borne and cause primary infection. It also lives in the infected plant tissues in soil. The secondary spread by air borne conidia produced on infected plant parts. Rain splash also helps in dissemination.

Management

- Remove and destroy infected plant debris in soil.
- Treat these seeds with Carbendazim at 2g/kg.

- Spray Carbendazim 500g or Mancozeb 2kg/ha soon after the appearance of disease and repeat after 15 days.

Leaf spot - *Cercosporacanescons*

Symptoms

Small, circular spots develop on the leaves with grey centre and brown margin. Several spots coalesce to form brown irregular lesions. In severe cases defoliation occurs. The brown lesions may be seen on petioles and stem in severe cases. Powdery growth of the fungus may be seen on the centre of the spots.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces clusters of dark brown septate conidiophores. The conidia are linear, hyaline, thin walled and 5-6 septate.

Favourable Conditions

- Humid weather and dense plant population.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives on diseased plant debris and on seeds. The secondary spread is by air-borne conidia.

Management

- Remove and burn infected plant debris.
- Spray Mancozeb at 2 kg/ha or Carbendazim at 500 g/ha.

Rust-

Uromyces phaseolitytica (Syn: *U. appendiculatus*) Symptom

s

The disease is mostly seen on leaves, rarely on petioles, stem and pods. The fungus produces small, round, reddish brown uredosori mostly on lower surface. They may appear in groups and several sori coalesce to cover a large area of the lamina. In the late season, teliosori appear on the leaves which are linear and dark brown in colour. Intense pustule formation causes drying and shedding of leaves.



Symptoms

Pathogen

It is autoecious, long cycle rust and all the spore stages occur on the same host. The uredospores are unicellular, globose or ellipsoid, yellowish brown with echinulations. The teliospores are globose or elliptical, unicellular, pedicellate, chestnut brown in colour with warty papillae at the top. Yellow coloured pycnia appear on the upper surface of leaves. Orange coloured cupulate aecia develop later on the lower surface of leaves. The aeciospores are unicellular and elliptical.

Favourable Conditions

- Cloudy humid weather, temperature of 21-26° C
- Nights with heavy dews

Mode of Spread and Survival

The pathogen survives in the soil through teliospores and as uredospores in crop debris. Primary infection is by the sporidia developed from teliospores. Secondary spread is by wind-borne uredospores. The fungus also survives on other legume hosts.

Management

- Remove the infected plant debris and destroy.
- Spray [Mancozeb](#) 2 kg or [Carbendazim](#) 500 g or [Propiconazole](#) 1L/ha, immediately on the set of disease and repeat after 15 days.

Dry root rot - [Rhizoctonia bataticola](#) (Pycnidial stage: [Macrophominaphaseolina](#))

Symptoms

The disease symptom starts initially with yellowing and drooping of the leaves. The leaves later fall off and the plant dies within a week. Dark brown lesions are seen on the stem at ground level and bark shows shredding symptom. The affected plants can be easily pulled out leaving dried, rotten root portions in the ground. The rotten tissues of stem and root contain a large number of black minute sclerotia.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces dark brown, septate mycelium with constrictions at hyphal branches. Minute, dark, round sclerotia in abundance. The fungus also produces dark brown, globose ostiolated [pycnidia](#) on the host tissues. The [pycnidiospores](#) are thin walled, hyaline, single celled and elliptical.

Favourable conditions

- Day temperature of 30°C.
- Prolonged dry season followed by irrigation.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected debris and also as facultative parasite in soil. The primary spread is through seed-borne and soil-borne [sclerotia](#). The secondary spread is through [pycnidiospores](#) which are air-borne.

Management

- Treat the seeds with carbendazim + thiram at 2 g/kg (1:1 ratio) or pellet the seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4 g/kg (10^6 cfu/g) or [Pseudomonas fluorescens](#) @ (10^6 cfu/g) of seed.
- Apply farmyard manure or green leaf manure ([Gliricidia maculata](#)) at 10 t/ha or neem cake at 150 kg/ha.

Mungbean Yellow mosaic disease-

[Mungbean yellow mosaic virus \(MYMV\)](#) Symptoms

Initially small yellow patches or spots appear on green lamina of young leaves. Soon it develops into a characteristic bright yellow mosaic or golden yellow mosaic symptom. Yellow discoloration slowly increases and leaves turn completely yellow. Infected plants mature later and bear few flowers and pods. The pods are small and distorted. Early infection causes death of the plant before seed set.



Symptoms

Pathogen

It is caused by [Mungbean yellow mosaic India virus \(MYMIV\)](#) in Northern and Central regions and [Mungbean yellow mosaic virus \(MYMV\)](#) in Western and Southern regions. It is a

Begomovirus belonging to the family geminiviridae. [Geminat](#)virus particles, [ssDNA](#), [bipartitegenome](#)with two genomic components [DNA-A](#) and [DNA-B](#).

Disease cycle

Transmitted by [whitefly](#), [Bemisia tabaci](#) under favourable conditions. Disease spreads by feeding of plants by [viruliferous whiteflies](#). Summer sown crops are highly susceptible. Weed hosts viz., [Croton sparsiflorus](#), [Acalypha indica](#), [Eclipta alba](#) and other legume hosts serve as reservoir for inoculum.

Management

- Rogue out the diseased plants up to 40 days after sowing.
- Remove the weed hosts periodically.
- Increase the seed rate (25 kg/ha).
- Grow resistant black gram variety like VBN-1, PDU 10, IC12/2 and PLU 322. Cultivate the crop during rabi season.
- Follow mixed cropping by growing two rows of maize (60 x 30 cm) or sorghum (45 x 15 cm) or cumbu (45 x 15 cm) for every 15 rows of black gram or green gram.
- Treat the seeds with [Thiomethoxam](#)-70WS or [Imidacloprid](#)-70WS @ 4g/kg
- Spray [Thiamethoxam](#)-25WG @ 100g or [Imidacloprid](#) 17.8% SL @ 100 ml in 500 lit of water.

Leaf crinkled disease-[Urdbean leaf crinkle virus \(ULCV\)](#)

Symptoms

Crinkling and curling of the tips of leaflets and increase in leaf area. Crinkling and rugosity in older leaves becomes severe and leaves thicken. Petioles as well as internodes are shortened. Infected plant gives a stunted and bushy appearance. Flowering is delayed, if inflorescence is formed, is malformed with small size flower buds and fails to open.

Pathogen

Causal organism of the disease is not yet ascertained.

Disease cycle

Presence of weed hosts like [Aristolochia bracteata](#) and [Digera arvensis](#). Kharif season crop and continuous cropping of other legumes serve as source of inoculum. The virus is seed-

borne and primary infection occurs through infected seeds. Perhaps whitefly, [*Bemisia tabaci*](#) helps in the secondary spread. The virus is also sap transmissible.

Management

- Use increased seed rate (25 kg/ha).
- Rogue out the diseased plants at weekly interval up to 45 days after sowing. Cultivate seed crop during rabi season.
- Remove weed hosts periodically.
- Spray methyl demeton on 30 and 40 days after sowing at 500 ml/ha.

Leaf curl/Necrosis - [*Groundnut bud necrosis virus*](#) (GBNV)

Symptoms

Upward cupping and curling of leaves with vein clearing. Infected leaves turn brittle and sometimes show vein necrosis on the under surface of the leaves, extending to the petiole. Plants affected in the early stages of growth develop top necrosis and die. Plant may produce a few small and malformed pods.

Pathogen

It is caused by [*Groundnut bud necrosis virus*](#)

Disease cycle

The virus is transmitted by thrips viz., [*Frankliniella schultzei*](#), [*Thrips tabaci*](#) and [*Scirtothrips dorsalis*](#). The virus survives in weed hosts, tomato, petunia and Chilli.

Management

- Rogue out infected plants up to 30 days after sowing.
- Remove the weed hosts which harbour virus and thrips.
- Spray imidachlor at 500 ml/ha on 30 and 45 days after sowing.

Minor diseases

Ascochyta leaf spot - [*Ascochyta phaseolorum*](#)

Small irregular spot with grey to brown centre and yellow border. They rapidly enlarge to produce very large brown lesions with concentric markings.

Bacterial blight - [*Xanthomonas phaseoli*](#)

Circular, reddish brown spots appear on leaves, enlarge to form irregular brown lesions.
Water soaked, sunken spots with red border occur on pods.

11. Diseases of Green gram

Powdery mildew- *Erysiphe polygoni*

Symptoms

Powdery mildew is one of the widespread diseases of several legumes in green gram. White powdery patches appear on leaves and other green parts which later become dull colored. These patches gradually increase in size and become circular covering the lower surface also. When the infection is severe, both the surfaces of the leaves are completely covered by whitish powdery growth. Severely affected parts get shriveled and distorted. In severe infections, foliage becomes yellow causing premature defoliation. The disease also creates forced maturity of the infected plants which results in heavy yield losses.

Pathogen

The fungus is ectophytic, spreading on the surface of the leaf, sending [haustoria](#) into the epidermal cells. [Conidiophores](#) arise vertically from the leaf surface, bearing conidia in short chains. Conidia are hyaline, thin-walled, elliptical or barrel shaped or cylindrical and single-celled. Later in the season, [cleistothecia](#) appear as minute, black, globose structures with myceloid appendages. Each [cleistothecium](#) contains 4-8 asci and each [ascus](#) contains 3-8 [ascospores](#) which are elliptical, hyaline and single-celled.

Favourable Conditions

- The pathogen has a wide host range and survives in oidial form on various hosts in off-season.
- Secondary spread is through air-borne oidia produced in the season

Disease Cycle

The fungus is an [obligate parasite](#) and survives as [cleistothecia](#) in the infected plant debris. Primary infection is usually from [ascospores](#) from perennating [cleistothecia](#). The secondary spread is carried out by the air-borne [conidia](#). Rain splash also helps in the spread of the disease.

Management

- Use resistant varieties

- Theseeds must besownearlyinthemonthofJunetoavoidearlyincidenceofthedisease on the crop.
- .SprayCarbendazim500gorWettablesulphur1.5kgorTridemorph500ml/haatthe initiation of disease and repeat 15 days later.

Anthracnose -[Colletotrichum lindemuthianum](#)- (Sexual stage:[Glomerella lindemuthianum](#))

Symptoms

The disease appears on all aerial part parts and at any stage of plant growth. Circular, black, sunken spots with dark center and bright red orange margins on leaves and pods. In severe infections, the affected parts wither off. Seedlings get blighted due to infection soon after seed germination.

Pathogen

The Disease appears on fungus mycelium is septate, hyaline and branched. [Conidia](#)are produced in [acervuli](#), arise from the stroma beneath the epidermis and later rupture to become erumpent. A few dark coloured, septate setae are seen in the acervulus. The [conidiophores](#)are hyaline and short and bear oblong or cylindrical, hyaline, thinwalled, single celled conidia with oil globules. The perfect stage of the fungus produces [perithecia](#)with limited number of asci, which contain typically 8 [ascospores](#)which are one or two celled with a central oil globule.

FavourableConditions

- The disease is more sever in cool and wet seasons.

Disease cycle

The fungus is seed-borne and cause primary infection. It also lives in the infected plant tissues in soil. The secondary spread by air borne conidia produced on infected plant parts. Rain splash also helps in dissemination.

Management

- Hotwatertreatmentat54°for10min.
- Use disease free seed.
- Followcroprotation
- Removeanddestroyinfectedplantdebrisinsoil.
- TreattheseedswithCarbendazimat2g/kg.

- Spray Carbendazim 500g or Mancozeb 2kg/ha soon after the appearance of disease and repeat after 15 days.

Leaf spot -Cercosporacanescons

Symptoms

This is an important disease of green gram and usually occurs in a severe form, causing heavy losses in yield. Spots produced are small, numerous in numbers with pale brown centre and reddish brown margin. Similar spots also occur on branches and pods. Under favourable environmental conditions, severe leaf spotting and defoliation occurs at the time of flowering and pod formation.

Pathogen

The fungus produces clusters of dark brown septate [conidiophores](#). The [conidia](#) are linear, hyaline, thin walled and 5-6 septate.

Favourable conditions

- High humidity favours disease development.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives on diseased plant debris and on seeds. The secondary spread is by air-borne conidia.

Management

- Cultivate resistant varieties.
- Intercrop the moong with tall growing cereals and millets.
- Follow clean cultivation.
- Use disease free seed.
- Maintain low crop population density and wider row planting.
- The crude extracts of cassava, garlic, and zinger are applied for controlling the disease effectively.
- Mulching reduces the disease incidence resulting in increase yield.
- Spray Mancozeb 2kg/ha or Carbendazim 500 g/ha.

Rust-Uromyces phaseolitypica (Syn: [U. appendiculatus](#))

Symptoms

The disease appears as circular reddish brown pustules which appear more commonly on the underside of the leaves, less abundant on pods and sparingly on stems. When leaves are severely infected, both the surfaces are fully covered by rust pustules. Shriveling followed by defoliation resulting in yield losses.

Pathogen

It is [autoecious](#), long cycle rust and all the spore stages occur on the same host. The [uredospores](#) are unicellular, globose or ellipsoid, yellowish brown with [echinulations](#). The [teliospores](#) are globose or elliptical, unicellular, pedicellate, chestnut brown in colour with warty papillae at the top. Yellow coloured [pycnia](#) appear on the upper surface of leaves. Orange coloured cupulate [aecia](#) develop later on the lower surface of leaves. The [aeciospores](#) are unicellular and elliptical.

Favourable Conditions

- Cloudy humid weather,
- Temperature of 21-26°C
- Nights with heavy dews.

Disease Cycle

The pathogen survives in the soil as [teliospores](#) and as [uredospores](#) in crop debris. Primary infection is by the [sporidia](#) developed from [teliospores](#). Secondary spread is by wind-borne uredospores. The fungus also survives on other legume hosts.

Management

- Remove the infected plant debris and destroy.
- Spray Mancozeb 12 kg or Carbendazim 500 g or [Propiconazole](#) 1 L/ha kg/ha, immediately on the set of disease and repeat after 15 days.
- Use tolerant varieties.

Dry root rot - [Rhizoctonia bataticola](#) (Pycnidial stage: [Macrophominaphaseolina](#))

Symptoms

The disease symptom starts initially with yellowing and drooping of the leaves. The leaves later fall off and the plant dies within a week. Dark brown lesions are seen on the stem at ground level and bark shows shredding symptom. The affected plants can be easily pulled out

leaving dried, rotten root portions in the ground. The rotten tissues of stem and root contain a large number of black minute sclerotia.

Pathogen

The fungus produces dark brown, septate mycelium with constrictions at hyphal branches. Minute, dark, round sclerotia in abundance. The fungus also produces dark brown, globose ostiolated pycnidia on the host tissues. The [pycnidiospores](#) are thin walled, hyaline, single celled and [elliptical](#).

Favourable conditions

- Day temperature of 30°C.
- Prolonged dry season followed by irrigation.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected debris and also as facultative parasite in soil. The primary spread is through seed-borne and soil-borne [sclerotia](#). The secondary spread is through air-borne [pycnidiospores](#).

Management

- Treat the seeds with Carbendazim + Thiram at 2 g/kg or pellet the seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4 g/kg or [Pseudonomas fluorescens](#) @ 10 g/kg of seed.
- Apply farm yard manure or green leaf manure ([Gliricidia maculate](#)) at 10 t/ha or neem cake at 150 kg/ha.

Yellow mosaic disease- [Mungbean yellow mosaic virus \(MYMV\)](#) Symptoms

Initially small yellow patches or spots appear on green lamina of young leaves. Soon it develops into a characteristic bright yellow mosaic or golden yellow mosaic symptom. Yellow discoloration slowly increases and leaves turn completely yellow. Infected plants mature later and bear few flowers and pods. The pods are small and distorted. Early infection causes death of the plant before seed set.

Pathogen

It is caused by [Mungbean yellow mosaic India virus \(MYMIV\)](#) in Northern and Central region and [Mungbean yellow mosaic virus \(MYMV\)](#) in western and southern regions. It is a Begomovirus belonging to the family Geminiviridae. Germinate virus particles, [ssDNA](#), bipartite genome with two genomic components DNA-A and DNA-B.

Disease cycle

Transmitted by [whitefly](#), [Bemisia tabaci](#) under favourable conditions. Disease spreads by feeding of plants by [viruliferous whiteflies](#). Summer sown crops are highly susceptible. Weed hosts viz., [Croton sparsiflorus](#), [Acalypha indica](#), [Eclipta alba](#) and other legume hosts serve as reservoir for [inoculum](#).

Management

- Rogue out the diseased plants up to 40 days after sowing.
- Remove the weed hosts periodically.
- Increase the seed rate (25 kg/ha).
- Grow resistant green gram variety like Pant Moong-3, Pusa Vishal, Basanti, ML-5, ML-337, PDM-54 and Samrat.
- Cultivate the crop during the rainy season.
- Follow mixed cropping by growing two rows of maize (60 x 30 cm) or sorghum (45 x 15 cm) or cumbu (45 x 15 cm) for every 15 rows of black gram or green gram.
- Treat the seeds with Thiomethoxam-70WS or Imidacloprid-70WS @ 4g/kg
- Spray Thiamethoxam-25WG @ 100g or Imidacloprid 17.8% SL @ 100 ml in 500 lit of water.

Leaf crinkled disease - [Urdbean leaf crinkle virus \(ULCV\)](#)

Symptoms

Crinkling and rugosity in older leaves becomes severe and leaves thicken. Crinkling and curling of the tips of leaflets are seen. Petioles as well as internodes are shortened. Infected plant gives a stunted and bushy appearance. Flowering is delayed, inflorescence, if formed, are malformed with small size flower buds and fail to open.

Pathogen

Causal organism of the disease is not yet ascertained, work is in progress in different laboratories.

Disease Cycle

Presence of weed hosts like [Aristolochia bracteata](#) and *Digera arvensis*. Kharif season crop and continuous cropping of other legumes serve as source of inoculum. The virus is seed-

borne and primary infection occurs through infected seeds. Perhaps whitefly, [*Bemisia tabaci*](#) helps in the secondary spread. The virus is also sap transmissible.

Management

- Use increased seed rate (25 kg/ha).
- Rogue out the diseased plants at weekly interval up to 45 days after sowing. Cultivate seed crop during rabi season.
- Remove weed hosts periodically.
- Spray [*Methyldemeton*](#) on 30 and 40 days after sowing at 500 ml/ha.

Leaf curl/Necrosis-[*Groundnut bud necrosis virus*](#)

Symptoms

Upward cupping and curling of leaves with vein clearing. Infected leaves are brittle and sometimes show vein necrosis on the under surface of the leaves, extends to the petiole. Plants affected in the early stages of growth develop top necrosis and die. Plant may produce a few small and malformed pods.

Pathogen

Caused by groundnut bud necrosis virus

Disease Cycle

The virus is transmitted by [*thrips*](#) viz., [*Frankliniella schultzei*](#), [*Thrips tabaci*](#) and [*Scirtothrips dorsalis*](#). The virus survives in weed hosts, tomato, petunia and Chilli.

Management

- Rogue out infected plants up to 30 days after sowing.
- Remove the weed hosts which harbour virus and thrips.
- Spray Imidachlor at 500 ml/ha on 30 and 45 days after sowing.

Minor diseases

Ascochyta leaf spot - [*Ascochyta phaseolorum*](#)

Small irregular spot with grey to brown centre and yellow border. They rapidly enlarge to produce very large brown lesions with concentric markings.

Bacterial blight- [*Xanthomonas phaseoli*](#)

Circular, reddish brown spots appear on leaves, enlarge to form irregular brown lesions.
Water soaked, sunken spots with red border occur on pods.

12. Diseases of Soybean

Dry root rot - *Macrophomina phaseolina*

Symptoms

The disease symptom starts initially with yellowing and drooping of the leaves. The leaves later fall off and the plant dies within a week. Dark brown lesions are seen on the stem at ground level and bark shows shredding symptom. The affected plants can be easily pulled out leaving dried, rotten root portions in the ground. The rotten tissues of stem and root contain a large number of black minute sclerotia.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces dark brown, septate mycelium with constrictions at hyphal branches. Minute, dark, round [sclerotia](#) in abundance. The fungus also produces dark brown, globose ostiolated [pycnidia](#) on the host tissues. The [pycnidiospores](#) are thin walled, hyaline, single celled and elliptical.

Favourable conditions

- Day temperature of 30°C
- Prolonged dry season followed by irrigation.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected debris and also as facultative parasite in soil. The primary spread is through seed-borne and soil-borne sclerotia. The secondary spread

isthroughseed-borneandsoil-bornesclerotia.Thesecondaryspreadsissthrough pycnidiospores which are air-borne.

Management

- TreattheseedswithCarbendazimorThiramat2g/kgorpellettheseedswith [*Trichoderma viride*](#)at 4 g/kg or[*Pseudonomas fluorescens*](#)@ 10g/kg of seed.
- Apply farm yard manure or green leaf manure ([*Gliricidia maculata*](#)) at 10 t/ha or neem cake at 150 kg/ha.

Wilt-*Fusariumoxysporumf.sp.tracheiphilum*

Symptoms

Symptoms do not appear until the plants are about six weeks old. Initially a few plants are noticed with pale green flaccid leaves which soon turn yellow. Growth is stunted, chlorosis, drooping, premature shedding or withering of leaves with veinal necrosis often occurs and finally plant dies within 5 days. Brownish, purple discoloration of the cortical area is seen, often extends throughout the plant.



Symptoms

Pathogen

The fungus produces falcate shaped [macroconidia](#) which are 4-5 septate, thin walled and hyaline. The [microconidia](#) are single celled hyaline and oblong or oval. The [chlamydospores](#) are also produced in abundance.

Favourable conditions

Temperature of 20-25°C and moist humid weather.

Disease cycle

The fungus survives in the infected stubbles in the field. The primary spread is through soilborne chlamydospores and infected seeds. The secondary spread is through conidia by irrigation water.

Management

- Treat these seeds with Carbendazim or Thiram at 2g/kg or treat these seeds with [Trichoderma viride](#) at 4 g/kg.
- Spot drenching with Carbendazim at 0.5 g/litre.

Leaf spot - [Cercosporasojana](#)

Symptoms

Light to dark gray or brown areas varying from speckles to large blotches appear on seeds. The disease primarily affects foliage, but, stems, pods and seeds may also be infected. Leaf lesions are circular or angular, at first brown then light brown to ash grey with dark margins. The leaf spot may coalesce to form larger spots. When lesions are numerous the leaves wither and drop prematurely. Lesions on pods are circular to elongate, light sunken and reddish brown.



Symptoms

Favourable conditions

- Fungus survives in infected seeds and in debris.
- Warm, humid weather favor disease incidence

Management

- Useresistantvarieties.
- Usehealthyorcertifiedseeds.
- Rotate soybean with cereals.
- Completelyremoveplantresiduebycleanploughingthefieldsoonafterharvest.
- Destroy last years infected stubble.
- SeedtreatmentwithThiram+Carbendazium(1:1)@2g/kgseed.
- SprayMancozeb@2g/LorCarbenzadium(500mg/L).

Mosai-[Soybeanmosaicvirus\(SMV\)](#)

Symptoms

Diseased plants are usually stunted with distorted (puckered, crinkled, ruffled, narrow) leaves. Pods become fewer and smaller seeds. Infected seeds get mottled and deformed. Infected seeds fail to germinate or they produce diseased seedlings.



Symptoms

Pathogen

Itiscausedby[Soybeanmosaicvirus](#)-apotyvirus.[Flexuous](#)particles750- 900nm long, [ss RNA genome](#)

Disease cycle

Soybean mosaic virus is seed borne. The SMV can be transmitted through sap, 32 aphid species are involved in transmission.

Favorable conditions

- Temperature around 18°C
- Humid weather.

Management

- Deep summer ploughing.
- Use resistant or tolerant varieties.
- Use healthy/certified seeds.
- Keep the field free from weeds.
- Rogue out infected plants and burn them
- Pre-sowing soil application of [Phorate](#) @ 10kg/ha.
- Two foliar sprays of [Thiamethoxam](#) 25 WG @ 100 g/ha or [Methyl demeton](#) 800 ml/ha at 30 and 45 days after sowing.