

Pineapple

Diseases

Black-rot or Soft-rot

A delay of some days between harvest and utilization of the ripe fruits leads to the development of black-rot or soft-rot. The fungus makes its entry through wounds caused during picking and packing. Infestation starts at the stalk-end of the fruit, resulting in small, circular, water-soaked spots that are very soft. Gradually, fruit rots and emits foul smell.



Control : Dipping of fruits for 5 minutes in Thiabendazole (100 ppm) or Benomyl (3000 ppm) minimise rotting. Avoiding injury to the fruit during harvest and transit prevents disease occurrence.

Heart-rot (*Phytophthora parasitica*)

The disease causes complete rotting of the central portion of the stem. The top leaves turn brown and basal portion of leaves shows sign of rotting with foul odour. Poor physical condition of the soil and inadequate drainage are responsible for spread of the disease.

Control : Affected plantations should be sprayed with Chlorthalonil 20g or Zineb 20g/10 litre of water. Good soil drainage and use of healthy planting material at helps in minimising the spread of the disease.

Leaf and Fruit-rot (*Cyrtostomella paradoxa*)

Base or butt rot of planting material occurs when they are not dried and packed with little aeration. Fungus also destroys older plants by entering through wounds caused in the collar region while weeding or other operations. In severe conditions the entire plant may turn dark and rot within two or three days

Control : The disease can be controlled by dipping planting materials in 0.3% Dithane Z-78 or by spraying on leaves. Copper fungicide should not be used in pineapple as they cause leaf scorching. The diseased plants must be destroyed and suckers for propagation should never be collected from the infested area.

Leaf Spot (*Phytophthora* sp.)

It occurs frequently in moist, warm, climate of eastern parts in India. Initial symptoms are in the form of water soaked lesions on the leaves. The spots later on enlarge in size and gradually dries up.

Control : Affected plantations should be sprayed with Chlorthalonil 20g or Zineb 20g/10 litre of water. Good soil drainage and use of healthy planting material at helps in minimising the spread of the disease.

Thielaviopsis rot (*Thielaviopsis paradoxa*)

The symptoms start at the stem and advance through most of the flesh with the only external symptom being slight skin darkening due to water soaking of the skin over rotted portions of the flesh. As the flesh softens, the skin above readily breaks under slight pressure

Control : Careful handling of the fruit to minimise mechanical injuries. Prompt cooling and maintenance of optimum temperature and relative humidity throughout postharvest handling operations. Application of fungicides, such as Thiabendazole (TBZ) is recommended.