



Brown Rot



The Brown Rot fungi affects almost all top fruits, particularly apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches and nectarines.

Brown rot is caused by the fungi *Monilinia laxa* and *Monilinia fructigena* and gains entry through injured skin. Bird pecks, wasps, codling moth, frost damage and scab infections can all cause the initial injury. The fungus can spread to adjacent healthy fruit by direct contact, or by insects, birds or rain splash that has come in to contact with the source of infection. Fruit can also contract the disease in storage.

DAMAGE

Brown Rot appears as brown decaying patches spreading out from the source of injury, which later bear white concentric rings of spores on ripening fruits. Infected fruits usually drop off, but sometimes remain attached to the tree and become mummified.

CONTROL

Non Chemical Control

Preventative measures can be taken. All over-wintering sources of infection should be removed and destroyed by the early spring. Fallen fruits, mummified fruits and the short section of the spur to which the fruit was attached should be removed and burned immediately. From May onwards the crop should be examined at regular intervals and any infected fruits should be destroyed.

Reduce possible causes of injury to your fruits by implementing appropriate pest and disease controls. Codling moth is the main cause of injury to apple and pears, therefore action should be taken to minimise the damage caused by this troublesome pest. Efforts should also be made to reduce the risk of scab infection. The fungus can also gain entry through bird pecks and wasp bites. Netting will keep birds off the fruit and jam jars hung from trees can be used to trap wasps. Just smear a small amount of jam inside the jar and fill it with soapy water. Branch wraps can also be used on stone fruits to keep both birds and wasps from damaging crops.

Fruit thinning will also reduce the spread of Brown Rot from one fruit to the other by contact. Fruit that is put in to storage should be unblemished and checked at regular intervals.

Chemical Controls

There are no chemicals available to control this disease.

USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause some damage to the foliage.