Identification of Diseases and Disorders of Blueberry in North Carolina

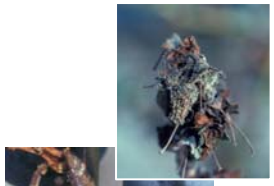
W.O. Cline
Plant Pathology Department
North Carolina State University

FRUIT ROTS

Anthracnose ripe rot
(Colletotrichum acutatum)

Alternaria fruit rot
(Alternaria tenuissima)

Exobasidium green spot
(Exobasidium vaccinii)



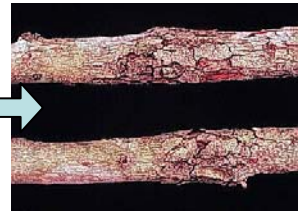
Gray mold flower blight and fruit rot
(Botrytis cinerea)

TWIG AND STEM DISEASES

Phomopsis soft rot and twig blight
(Phomopsis vaccinii)

Stem blight
(Botryosphaeria dothidea)

Blueberry Stunt
(Phytoplasma)



Stem canker lesions on 1-yr old wood

Mature stem cankers
(Botryosphaeria corticis)

Ascospores blown by wind infect leaf and flower shoots

Apothecia development (February-March)

Overwintering pseudosclerotia

Mummy Berry Disease Cycle

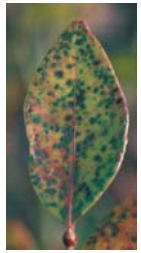
Primary infection produces conidia (April)

Infected fruit turn pink, fall to the ground (June)

Conidia carried by insects infect open flowers (April)

Mummy Berry
(Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi)

LEAF DISEASES



Leaf rust *(Pucciniastrum myrtilli)*
Note orange rust spores (uredia) on underside of leaf

Anthracnose leaf spot
(Gloeosporium minus)

Septoria leaf spot
(Septoria albopunctata)

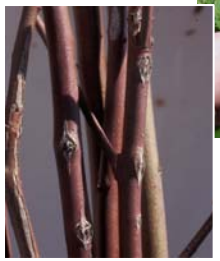
Blighted cuttings; orange fungal fruiting bodies on cutting (inset) and infested area of rooting bed *(Calonectria illicicola)*

Dodder (*Cuscuta* sp.) a parasitic higher plant, in summer (top), and winter. Inset shows dodder in bloom

Powdery mildew *(Microsphaera vaccinii)*

Septoria leaf spot lesions on stems *(Septoria albopunctata)*

ABIOTIC FACTORS



Hail injury to green fruit and to stems

Berries not destroyed by late spring freezes may have internal damage (left) or scars around the calyx (right)

HERBICIDE OR CHEMICAL INJURY

Glyphosate injury from applications made the previous year

Severe spray burn caused by a phytotoxic fungicide

Edema

Rain splitting (Cracking)

Hurricane winds strip leaves but petioles remain attached

Poor pollination results in uneven sizing, yellowing and shedding of unpollinated berries

Gramoxone droplet injury on green stems – girdled stems die rapidly and may be confused with stem blight symptoms

Distortion and scars caused by surfactant burn on fruit (right)