

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF STALK ROT DISEASES



Decay of stalk portion



Rotting of berries



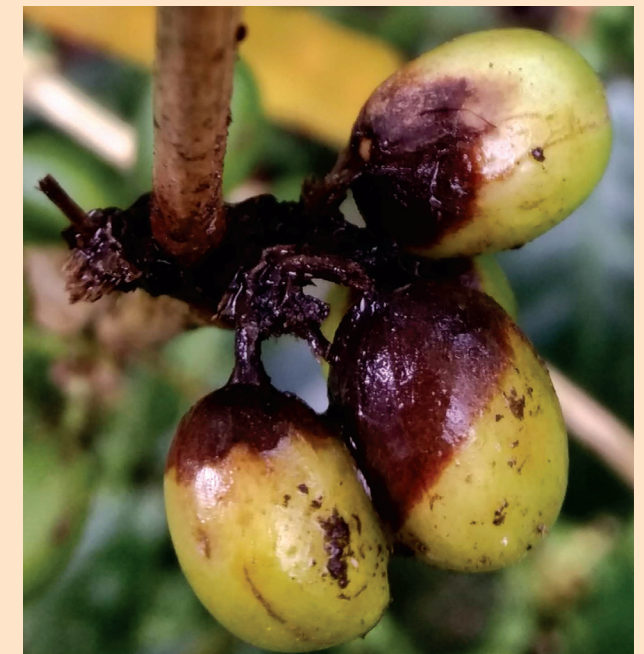
Close view of decay of stalk portion



Infected berries showing
premature ripening

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Stalk rot is an important disease observed during South-West monsoon season both on Arabica and Robusta coffee caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. This is known to be a bark inhabiting fungus. Generally, it is a weak pathogen but under favourable weather conditions, becomes vigorously pathogenic.

Symptoms

- ❖ Pathogen infects at the stalk region of developing berries and leaves, resulting in decay of the stalk portion leading to dropping of infected leaves as well as berries.
- ❖ Generally, the rotting stalk remains at the nodes of the infected branch while berries drop down.
- ❖ Even if some berries remain, they show premature ripening towards the end of September or October and may remain as 'lights/floats/jollu' during crop harvest.

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Favourable conditions

- ❖ Low temperature and high relative humidity (95-100%).
- ❖ Continuous surface wetness of plants due to rain or mist
- ❖ Wounds on the stalk of berries & leaves
- ❖ Excess soil moisture during monsoon.

Integrated disease management

- ❖ Provide good drainage system and clean the cradle pits before the onset monsoon to avoid stagnation of water around root zone.
- ❖ The mulch below the canopy should be removed and heaped in centre of four plants to provide better aeration.
- ❖ Apply balanced nutrients (NPK) to the plants especially the plants that yielded high crop in the previous year.
- ❖ Complete the spraying of 1% alkaline Bordeaux mixture with proper coverage on both the surface of the leaves and berries just before the onset of monsoon.

- ❖ If the disease progression is noticed even after prophylactic Bordeaux mixture spray, in such a condition, collect & destroy the infected plant parts and debris. After phyto-sanitation, it is advised to take up fungicide spray of tebuconazole 38.39% SC @ 200 ml/200 litres of water and NAA (Planofix) @ 50 ml along with wetting agent/sticker during clear break in monsoon season.



Stalk portion remaining at nodes after dropping of berries

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