



Grape Disease – Anthracnose

What is Grape Anthracnose?

Grape anthracnose (*Elsinoe ampelina*) is a fungal disease of grapes in warm, humid, rainy regions. It is also known as “bird’s eye rot” because of the characteristic circular damage it causes on grape berries.

What is the Damage Caused?

Anthracnose may cause significant economic loss by decreasing yield and quality. Anthracnose may reduce overall vigor of the vine.



Anthracnose leaves signature rot circles on grape berries¹

Specifically, anthracnose causes lesions on leaves, shoots, and fruit. Leaves develop circular brown tissue damage and shoots become black and brittle. Fruit may be shriveled, with purple, red, or black circles present. Pulp may drain from fruit lesions. Spores remain dormant in grape shoots until temperatures reach above 2°C and conditions are wet for a period of 24 hours or longer, at which point spores may spread by water from rain or irrigation.



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Infected leaves become brown and brittle. Cellular damage can also occur to leaf veins².

How to Manage Grape Anthracnose?

Cultural Management: Best management of anthracnose is achieved through careful pruning of all disease-ridden parts of the vines, including infected shoots, stems, clusters, and berries, and clearing the vineyard floor of all trimmings during winter. Destroy all diseased materials away from the vineyard. Pruning can improve air circulation, which may prevent severe outbreaks.

Fungicide Treatment Options:

- Liquid lime sulfur or a Bordeaux mixture applied early in the season before buds have opened.
- A foliar fungicide with the active ingredient iprodione may be applied as a secondary treatment during the growing season.
- Always follow the directions exactly as written on pesticide labels for most effective and safe use.

For more treatment options visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

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Sources: Statewide IPM Program, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook, University of Ohio Extension <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b861/>

Photo Credit: ¹M. Ellis, Ohio State University, ²Paul Bachi, University of Kentucky Research & Education Center, Bugwood.org

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