

Papaya Foot Rot (*Phytophthora* sp.)

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Papaya foot rot, caused by a species of *Phytophthora*, is a disease that is characterized by the appearance of spongy, water-soaked patches on the bark at the soil line. The patches enlarge rapidly and girdle the stem, causing the tissue to rot. The tissues become black, and the plant topples and dies. The disease continues to spread in the roots and destroys them. If the bark is opened, the internal tissues appear dry and honey-combed.

The pathogen inhabits the soil. It is capable of growing and surviving on plant residues, but attacks living plants in the presence of a favorable host. Waterlogging is very conducive to disease development.

Control

The disease can be avoided if plants are grown in well-drained soil. Affected plants should be carefully dug up and destroyed by burning. Replanting should not be done in the same pit where disease has once appeared. When trees are weeded, care should be taken so that no injury is caused to the base of the stem.

If additional information is desired, consult an Extension Agent at your local land grant institution

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Stem or Foot Rot of Papaya



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