Black Rot of Grapes

Black rot is a common disease of grapes in Kentucky. Due to the prevalence of this disease, it is also one of the most economically important diseases of grapes. Black rot can affect all young, developing, above ground plant tissues. However, fruit infections are the most destructive. Without adequate disease management, both home and commercial vineyards may suffer significant yield losses.

Black Rot Facts

Leaf symptoms first appear as small, round, reddish-brown spots that enlarge to 1/8 to 1/4 inch diameter (Figure 1). These spots may coalesce into larger blotches (Figure 2). Enlarged spots develop dark margins with light brown to tan centers that may contain small, black spore-bearing fungal fruiting structures (pycnidia).

Fruit symptoms begin as soft, light brown spots (Figure 3) that enlarge to envelop entire berries. Infected fruit then shrivel into black, wrinkled mummies (Figure 4).

Symptoms on shoots, petioles, and tendrils appear as irregular or diamond-shaped, sunken, tan to brown lesions. Black fungal fruiting structures may be observed in lesions.

Disease is favored by warm, moist periods. Infection may occur throughout the growing season; however, as plants mature, disease susceptibility decreases.

Caused by the fungus Guignardia bidwillii.

The pathogen survives winter in mummies, fallen leaves, and stem lesions.
Management Options

- Select cultivars with reduced susceptibility to black rot.
- Plant in good sites with appropriate air circulation and leaf drying characteristics.
- Avoid planting in low lying, poorly drained sites.
- Train vines onto high trellises to promote air circulation and allow for better fungicide penetration.
- Remove weeds and basal sprouts for increased air movement.
- Utilize disease prediction models to evaluate risk for infection. The University of Kentucky provides a Black Rot of Grape Disease Prediction Model.
- Remove and destroy all diseased plant tissues.

Fungicides may be applied preventatively beginning at bud break (after 1/2 inch new growth) and continue through berry maturity. Homeowners may use fungicides that contain the active ingredients mancozeb or myclobutanil. Contact a county Extension agent for more information on fungicide use.

Kim Leonberger, Extension Associate and Nicole Ward Gauthier, Extension Specialist

Blue Mold in Tennessee

On Saturday, July 2, blue mold was found in Carter County in East Tennessee. Therefore, all producers in Tennessee should immediately examine tobacco plants in the greenhouse and in the field for blue mold.

If you suspect blue mold in a greenhouse, field, please get in touch with me, as soon as possible for diagnosis. Blue mold remains a disease with potential to affect the entire tobacco growing community and the pathogen can easily be blown from farm to farm. Widespread disease can develop extremely quickly under conducive weather conditions, which is why scouting, diagnosis, and appropriate responses are so critical. Fungicides are important in the prevention and management of blue mold in tobacco.

For transplanted plants in field:

All producers should immediately scout for blue mold in fields and treat if found. For prevention producers should apply a foliar spray at this time with one of the following: Revus (8 fl oz/A), Forum* (2-8 fl oz/A, rate dependent on plant size), Presidio* (4 fl oz/A), Quadris (6-12 fl oz/A, rate dependent on plant size) or Orondis Ultra (2.0-4.8 fl oz/A Orondis Ultra A + 8 fl oz/A Orondis Ultra B). The blue mold resistance activator, Actigard, cannot be used on burley less than 18 inches in height. *Forum and Presidio must be tank mixed with a blue mold fungicide with a different mode of action. Currently, any blue mold fungicide can be mixed with or alternated with Presidio, but Forum and Revus cannot be mixed or alternated, as they have the same mode of action. If Orondis Gold has already been used in the field, Orondis Ultra may not be used for blue mold management.

Manzate is a good tank mix and rotation partner; however, producers must address blue mold management with careful consideration. They must maintain the tricky balance between effectively treating for blue mold,

Nitrate Concerns

Drought-stressed sorghum and/or corn are the source of most of the forage-related cases of nitrate poisoning in Kentucky, but wheat, sudangrass, rye, pearl millet, soybeans, beets, Brassica spp. (rape, kale, turnips, swedes) and oats can also accumulate nitrates. Common weeds that are nitrate accumulators include ragweed, pigweed, thistle, bindweed, dock, jimsonweed, and johnsongrass.

Few plants normally contain high nitrate levels, since under normal growing conditions the nitrates are converted to protein as quickly as they are absorbed from the roots. However, under certain conditions such as high nitrogen fertilization, drought or abrupt changes in weather, plants can develop dangerously high nitrate levels. The main problem with excess nitrates is that they are converted in the rumen to nitrites that are absorbed in the bloodstream and ultimately prevent the red blood cells from carrying life-giving oxygen. Death or abortion may result as a consequence of nitrate intoxication. Care must be taken to recognize possible toxic forages and manage them appropriately to avoid animal loss. The Lewis County Extension Office can provide specific instructions for Nitrate testing.
following the label in terms of the number of allowable applications, and being careful not to endanger your tobacco contract with mancozeb use due to residue concerns. Dedicated time and study should allow growers to effectively manage blue mold now and leave options open later in the season for effective target spot management, all while staying in compliance with tobacco contracts and fungicide labels.

**Lewis County Cattlemen’s**
The Next Lewis County Cattlemen’s meeting will be August 2nd at 7:00 at the Extension Office. Darin Stanfield DMV will be the guest speaker. You don’t have to be a member of the Lewis County Cattlemen’s to attend the meeting. However if you would like to join dues are $30.

**Fencing School**
Hold the Date, August 31 open on your Calendars. There will be a fencing school starting at 9:00 AM at the Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department. We will have hands-on demonstration at the Mr. Rick Hord Farm on Ribolt–Epworth road in the afternoon. The School will talk about how to properly install permanent fence and electric fence. Lunch will be provided. Fencing School is sponsored by Lewis County Extension Office, Stay Tuff Fencing, Gallagher Fencing and Maysville Southern States. There is no charge for the school. Please call the office to reserve your spot.

**TIMELY TIPS**
Dr. Roy Burris, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

**Spring-Calving Cow Herd**
Cows should be on good pasture with clover and preferably low endophyte levels in fescue for the spring breeding season. Keep pastures vegetative by clipping or making hay. They should have abundant shade and water. Cows should become pregnant before July when temperatures and heat stress can ruin the “spring” breeding season. Observe the cows and bulls as the breeding season continues. Watch bulls for injury or lameness and change bulls if a high percentage of cows are returning to heat. Record cow breeding dates to determine next year’s calving dates and keep records of cows and bulls in each breeding group.

Keep a good pasture mineral mix, which contains adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium and copper, available at all times.

Consider a special area for creep grazing calves, or practice “forward grazing” this summer, allowing calves to graze fresh pasture ahead of the cows. This can be accomplished by raising an electric wire or building a creep gate.

**Fall-Calving Herd**

Pregnancy test cows if not done previously. Cull cows at weaning time. Smooth-mouthed cows. Cows weaning light weight and/or poor-quality calves. Open cows. “Problem cows” with bad feet, teats, udders, etc. Select replacement heifers on the basis of: Temperament Conformation weaning weight dam and sire records Select more than needed to allow for culling after a short breeding season.

**General**
Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought. Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the “chute” less stressful. Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for best quality. Prevent/Control pinkeye consider vaccinating, control flies, clip tall, mature grass, treat problems quickly. Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough so cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks.
to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks’ rest. Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein and vitamins at this time. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don’t overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.

Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.

Selecting a Market Lamb
Kristen Stringer. Lewis County Extension Intern

Everyone usually has a common goal when they purchase a market lamb project for a fair or open show, they’re in it to win it, and I’m gonna help you reach that goal. When selecting a market lamb for show it is important to know the qualities to look for while keeping the final objective in mind. The biggest mistake most people make when selecting market lambs is selecting lambs based on one particular trait rather than selecting a complete lamb. I’m sure we are all guilty of this at some point or another because you just couldn’t resist the muscling in its leg and you thought for sure that the judge would ignore the break in its loin because there wasn’t a more muscular lamb in the ring. Although there wasn’t a more muscular lamb in the ring, there was a more complete lamb in the ring that will more like be the one that wins. So what makes a complete lamb? A complete lamb has above average muscling, a frame size that can carry its weight well, is structurally correct and balanced. Being structurally correct means that it has no jaw deformities, its feet should be square, have strong pasterns and no feet problems. Do not buy a lamb that is limp. A lamb that is balanced should be straight over the topline, square over the rump and should overall look complete when walking with no abnormal leg movements. Although selecting for all these traits should lead you to success, you must remember that the overall placing is one person’s opinion on one specific day. Placing may vary on different days or with different judges depending on how the lamb performs or what the judge see as the most important characteristics. Best of luck to you.

Sincerely,

Philip Konopka
County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Please visit our Farmer’s Market for all your local quality produce needs. Hours of operation is Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. until Sell Out.

Cucumber, Corn, and Bean Salsa

2-3 large cucumbers
2 tomatoes
1 yellow bell pepper
1 small red onion
¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ cup black beans

Wash all vegetables. Finely chop cucumbers, tomatoes, pepper, and onion. Combine in a large mixing bowl with chopped cilantro. Drain and rinse beans and add to chopped vegetables. Add corn. If using canned corn instead of fresh, drain off liquid prior to adding to vegetables.

In a small bowl, mix together ranch dressing packet, vinegar, and sugar. Pour dressing over vegetables and mix well. Serve immediately or refrigerate until chilled.

Yield: Makes 20, ½ cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories, 0 g fat, 130 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 70% Daily Value of vitamin C and 6% Daily Value of vitamin A.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers’ market, or roadside stand.