Anthracnose on Tomato

Recognize the problem
This disease is caused by a fungus. Diseased fruit have sunken, water soaked circular rotten spots which crack open causing fruit rot. Green fruit can also become infected, but do not show spots until they begin to ripen. The fungus can cause spots particularly on the lower leaves, but these are not easily seen. Roots can show some rotting when fruits begin to ripen. The fungus does not affect the stem. Diseased tomatoes are stored for a shorter period and may not be saleable due to the rot.

Background
The fungus can be seed-borne or can be from infected plant debris left over from the previous crop. Infection can be by rain splash or spread by movement of people in the farm. Sprinkler irrigation also helps in the spread of the disease. Weeds and crops related to tomatoes also harbour the fungus. The fungus attacks tomatoes that are not staked and without mulch.

Management
Non-chemical control
- Plant certified disease-free seeds.
- Rotate tomato with crops that are not in the same family, i.e. do not rotate with pepper, brinjals or potatoes.
- Avoid sprinkler irrigation as it helps in the spread of the disease.
- Mulching, staking and planting the crop on ridges help to reduce the disease happening.
- Severely diseased plants should be removed and destroyed.

Chemical control
- Use products containing Azoxystrobin and Mancozeb to control the disease.

Scientific name(s) > Colletotrichum coccodes

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: many countries where this pest or problem is present.