Monilia in peach

Recognize the problem
Monilia or brown rot attacks the peach when it has flowers. The flowers rot. They seem burned and fall. It also attacks recently set fruits, which become dry and fall. Fruits that are close to harvest also rot, dry and fall. The fruits show brown rot covered with ash powder. An uncontrolled monilia attack can lead to total loss of the harvest.

Background
Brown rot usually occurs during the rainy season, when there is high humidity. The disease is caused by an aggressive fungus that is spread mainly by the wind and rapidly multiplies. The fungus can survive from one season to the next in twig and branch cankers and in mummified fruits, either on the ground or still on the tree. An affected fruit can contaminate healthy fruits in the tree and during transportation.

Management
To control this fungus, the following measures should be taken:
• Cleaning pruning, removing dry and attacked branches.
• Removal of damaged or dry fruits from the previous crop cycle, so that they do not infect healthy fruits.
• If it is humid, apply preventive sprays with chemical products containing sulfur or Mancozeb at 500 grams per cylinder of 200 liters of water.
• When the first symptoms of the disease can be seen, apply curative chemicals such as triazoles (Folicur, Score and others) at 120 ml per 200 liters of water, alternating products to prevent resistance.
• When harvest approaches, preventively apply Benomyl (e.g. Benlate) at 200 grams per cylinder of 200 liters of water, or Iprodione (e.g. Rovral) at 100 grams per cylinder.
• Spray calcium-boron on the leaves at early stages: sprouting, flowering and fruit setting. This will help the plant to resist to the attack of this disease.

Scientific name(s) > Monilia fructicola

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.