

Mealy pod of cocoa (*Trachysphaera* pod rot)

Trachysphaera fructigena



Cocoa pod showing dense white to pinkish/brown spore mass (A. Y. Akrofi, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This disease is caused by an organism which enters wounds on cocoa pods. On its own it causes little economic damage but to reduce losses: Avoid wounding of cherelles (young pods) and pods during farm operations such as weeding and harvesting The disease is worse in the wet season so ensure correct spacing is used (3m x 3m) and prune cocoa in March/April, clear weeds 3-4 times a year Avoid transporting infected pods to uninfected areas Use improved planting materials from COCOBOD Seed Production Division Ensure proper nutrition of cacao trees through fertilization (Conact COCOBOD for list of approved fertilizers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor field all year round, but the disease is more prevalent during the rainy season between July and November The disease only affects the pods and symptoms can look similar to those caused by <i>Phytophthora</i> (black pod) Look out for pods with a thick mass of fungal growth on the surface that is white at first but becomes pinkish-brown The texture of the growth feels rough giving it its mealy appearance Apply green direct controls as soon as diseased pods are seen. If the disease is severe, copper fungicides can be applied (see yellow direct control column) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid wounding of pods and cherelles when pruning and harvesting to reduce infection When the fungal growth is white, spores can be transferred from pod to pod by wind and insects so remove or harvest infected pods as soon as they are seen to reduce spread of the disease Bury or burn infected pods or pod husks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When using a pesticide or botanical, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label Do not use chemicals with the same mode of action year after year as this can lead to resistance This disease is generally of no economic importance and no chemical control measures are currently advised If the disease is severe, copper fungicides can be applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply using a 15L pneumatic knapsack sprayer at 4 week intervals during the rainy season when there are pods to protect. Copper hydroxide (Kocide 2000 DF, Funguran-OH, Champion, Kentan) Rate 100g/15L. Protective with multi site action, FRAC Group M1 WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous). REI-24 hrs.; Copper oxide (Nordox Super 75 WG) Rate 75g/15L. Protective with multi site action FRAC Group M1 WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous). REI-24 hrs.



Ghana

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