

# Apple Scab

### Symptoms:

- Apple scab manifests as black spots on either the upper or lower leaf surface. Young scab spots appear as light green areas which contrast slightly with the healthy surface.
- Fruit infected at early stages of development shows typical symptoms of scab and cracks appear in the skin and flesh of the fruit.
- Infection of mature fruit results in small spots with little distortion.
- C.O. Venturia inaequalis
- Anamorph: Spilocaea pomi

### **Symptoms of Apple Sab**







### **Apple Scab Conidia and Pseudothecium**





# Epidemiology

- Rainy cool weather favours disease development.
- Favourable temperature is 16-23°C.

- Control:
- Collect and dispose of fallen leaves.
- Spray any one of benzimidazole fungicides.

# **Powdery Mildew of Apple**

### Symptoms

- Symptoms on leaves of new shoots appear as white, felt-like patches of fungal growth containing mycelium and chains of conidia that cover the leaf and stem.
- Infected leaves become narrow, folded and brittle.
- Infection during flowering results in failure to set fruit.
- C.O. Podosphaera leucotricha (Ell. and Ev.) Salm.

### Symptoms of Powdery Mildew on Apple Leaves



### **Symptoms of Powdery Mildew on Apple**





# Epidemiology

- T**emp.** 19-22°C
- Humidity: 90%

• **Control:** Spray of Topsin-M @ 1 gm/litre of water.

### **Diseases of Pear**

- Pear (*Pyrus communis* L.) is a mild sweet fruit that is a delicious source of fiber, potassium, antioxidants, flavonoids, vitamin C, K and copper.
- Oldest cultivation sites are found in France.

### Pear Scab

### Symptoms

- Yellow or chlorotic spots are formed on leaves.
- Dark olive green spots appear on leaves and fruit.
- Velvety growth on spots on undersides of leaves may be observed.
- Twisting and distortion of leaves occur.
- Severely infected leaves turn yellow and drop from tree.
- C. O. Venturia pyrina

### **Symptoms of Pear Scab on Fruit**



# Symptoms of Pear Scab on underside of leaves



# **Disease Cycle**

- Fungus overwinters on dead foliage on ground.
- Spores are dispersed by wind.

- Factors Favouring
- High moisture encourages fungal growth.

# Management

- Orchard sanitation should be adopted.
- Prune affected portions of the tree and remove diseased foliage or fruit which become important sources of inoculum for the next season.
- Bordeaux mixture should be sprayed if humid conditions prevail as soon as leaf tips emerge.
- Fungicidal treatment for Apple and Pear scab is the same.

### **Alternaria Fruit Rot of Pear**

- Alternaria rot is characterized by circular, dry, shallow lesions covered with olive green to black mycelial growth.
- The infected tissue becomes brown.
- It infects fruit in the orchard through skin breaks or areas weakened by sunburn or bruising.
- This remains a minor pathogen but its frequency can vary between seasons.

### **Symptoms of Alternaria Rot on Pear**



### Management

• Spray of Amistar @ 0.5 ml / liter of water.

# Fire Blight of Apple and Pear

- Symptoms:
- Fire blight is a destructive bacterial disease found on apples, pears and other members of the rose family.
- It has been named for the scorched appearance of infected leaves.
- The disease enters the tree at the tips of the branches travelling down the stems.
- Symptoms of fire blight can be observed on all above ground tissues including blossoms, fruits, shoots, branches and limbs and rootstock.

### **1. Symptoms on Blossoms and Young Shoots**

- Blossom symptoms are first observed 1-2 weeks after petal fall.
- The floral parts become water soaked, dull and grayish green. These tissues show shriveling and development of black colour.
- During periods of high humidity, small droplets of bacterial ooze form on discolored tissues.
- Bark on younger branches become dark and show cracks and amber-colored bacterial ooze.

# 2. Symptoms on Pear and Apple Fruits

- Water-soaked lesions form on surfaces of immature fruit and later turn brown to black.
- Droplets of bacterial ooze may form on lesions, usually in association with lenticels.
- Severely diseased fruits blacken completely and shrivel.



### Fire Blight in Apple Blossom

### Fire Blight Symptoms on Pear Blossom Cluster

### **Symptoms of Fire Blight on Apple Leaves**



### **Bacterial Ooze**



### **Diseased and Healthy Shoots of Pear**



### **Fire blight Canker**



### **Apple Fruit Showing Signs of Bacterial Ooze**



### **Pear Shoot with Fire Blight Symptoms**



## **3. Symptoms on Apple Rootstocks**

- Rootstock infections may develop close to graft union as a result of internal movement of the pathogen through the tree.
- Water-soaking, cracking and signs of bacterial ooze become evident on the bark of infected rootstocks.
- Red-brown to black streaking is also seen in wood just under the bark.
- C.O. Erwinia amylovora

### Symptoms on Apple Rootstock



### **Cankers caused by Fire blight on Shoots**



### **Fire blight Symptoms on Apple**



### Fire Blight Symptoms on Pear



# Pathogen Biology

- *Erwinia amylovora* is a member of the family Enterobacteriacae. Cells of *E. amylovora* are gramnegative, rod-shaped and flagellated on all sides.
- *E. amylovora* is classified as a facultative anaerobe.
- Cells of *E. amylovora* can excrete an extracellular polysaccharide which provides protection to the pathogen by creating a matrix.
- *E. amylovora* has ability to survive as an endophyte within healthy plant tissue including branches, limbs and bud wood.
- Optimum temperature for growth is 27°C.

# **Disease Cycle**

### Survival and Dissemination

- *Erwinia amylovora* survives in annual cankers that are formed on branches diseased in the previous season.
- Finding warm temperature in spring, the pathogen becomes active in the margins of cankers.
- Dissemination of bacteria from the canker to flowers occurs through insects attracted to the ooze and rain.
- Primary infection in flowers
- Blossom blight starts when cells of *E. amylovora* are washed externally from the stigma to the hypanthium (floral cup).

### **Disease Management**

- Integrated disease management approaches including sanitation, cultural practices, and sprays of chemical or biological agents need to be adopted.
- Overwintering inoculum of the pathogen should be eliminated.
- Overwintering cankers may be removed by pruning trees during the winter.

### • Prevention of Blossom Blight

- Prevention of blossom infection is essential because infections initiated in flowers are destructive.
- Sprays of antibiotics like streptomycin, oxytetracycline or kasugamycin may suppress blossom infection in commercial orchards. But due to resistance problem, use of antibiotics is not preferred.
- Spray of copper fungicides is effective but should be done on young orchards due to the risk of phytotoxcity on fruit.

### \*Sources

- 1. Recommended books.
- 2. Latest research articles downloaded from Google.
- 3. Google images.

• \*Solely for academic purpose and guidance of students.