

Frosty Pod Rot

Moniliophthora roreri

Class: Agaricomycetes Order: Agaricales Family: Marasmiaceae

Description

Billions of dense cream coloured spores are formed on the cocoa pod surface that are easily dispersed by wind, water or humans. Frosty Pod Rot should not be confused with Black Pod Rot.

Table showing the difference between Frosty Pod Rot & Black Pod Rot

Frosty Pod Rot	Black Pod Rot
Thick, dense cream coloured mat (44million per cm ²)	Fungal growth is not as dense (up to 4 million)
Approximately ¾ of pod becomes mummified.	Entire pod becomes black and mummified.
Incubation period is approximately 80 days.	Incubation period is approximately 11 days.

Hosts

Main host: *Theobroma cocoa*

Wild host: *Herrania spp.*

Theobroma spp.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms only appear on pods. The nature of the symptoms depends on the age of the pods when they are infected.



Pod <1 month old: Pod 1-3 months old:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chlorotic swellings. ➤ Distortion. ➤ Necrosis ➤ Seed mass becomes soft & watery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Swellings. ➤ Large necrotic, dark brown spots. ➤ Premature ripening. ➤ Necrosis spreads internally. |
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Pods 3 months and older:

- Necrotic external surface becomes covered by thick, fungal growth.
- Fungal growth is at first frost white then turns cream, tan then light brown.
- Infected pods become heavier than healthy pods.
- Endocarp, seeds, shows reddish-brown necrosis.
- Infected pods gradually shrink and dry and become hard mummies partially covered with hardened remains of pseudostroma.