

# RIPE ROT

*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, *C. capsici*, *C. acutatum*, and *C. coccodes*

Cause: *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, *C. capsici*, *C. acutatum*, and *C. coccodes*

Symptoms: May develop as postharvest decay of chile pods. Appears on mature pods as small, water-soaked, sunken lesions that rapidly expands. May increase to 3-4 cm in diameter. Fully expanded lesions are sunken and range from dark red to light tan with varying amounts of visible dark stromatic fungal tissue. Pale buff to salmon spore masses occur scattered or in concentric rings on the lesions. Pre- and postemergence damping-off, shoot necrosis, and leaf spots are expressed in some geographic areas.

Demographics: Wide geographic distribution, occurring wherever chile is grown under overhead irrigation or rainfed conditions.

Dissemination: Can be seed-borne in chiles, persist in crop debris.

Importance: A major disease in many areas.

Control: Clean seed and crop rotation are important elements in disease management.

Application of fungicides can reduce disease losses.



