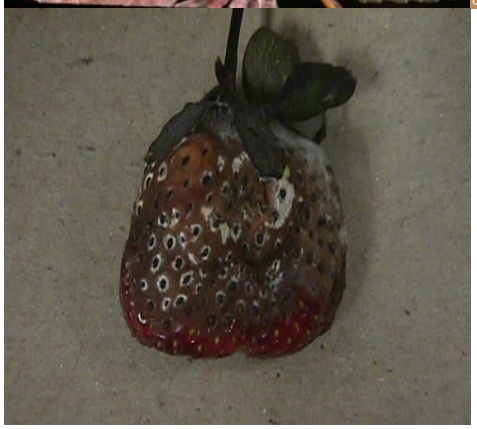
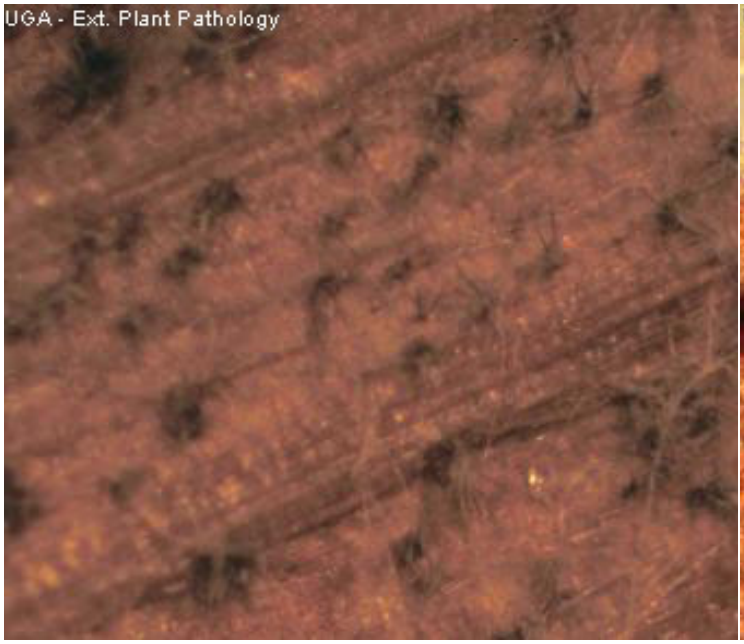
Colletotrichum

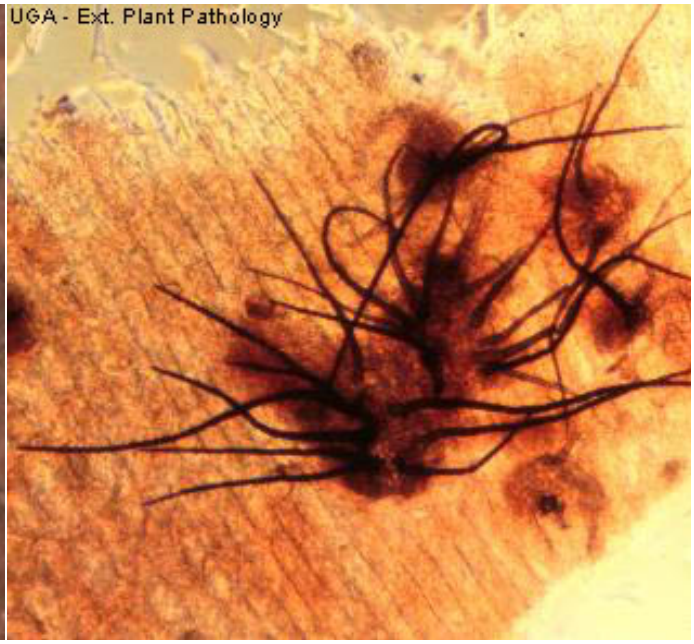
Important diseases: Bitter rot of apple, Ripe rot of grape, pears, and peaches, Anthracnose of tomato, cucurbits and ornamentals. Strawberry fruit Anthracnose.

Colletotrichum is the most important and common fungal genus causing anthracnose. *Colletotrichum* has an extremely wide host range including vegetables, field and forage crops, fruit trees, and ornamentals. It infects foliage and fruits, particularly in warm, wet weather. *Colletotrichum* can affect stem tips causing die back and stem lesions.

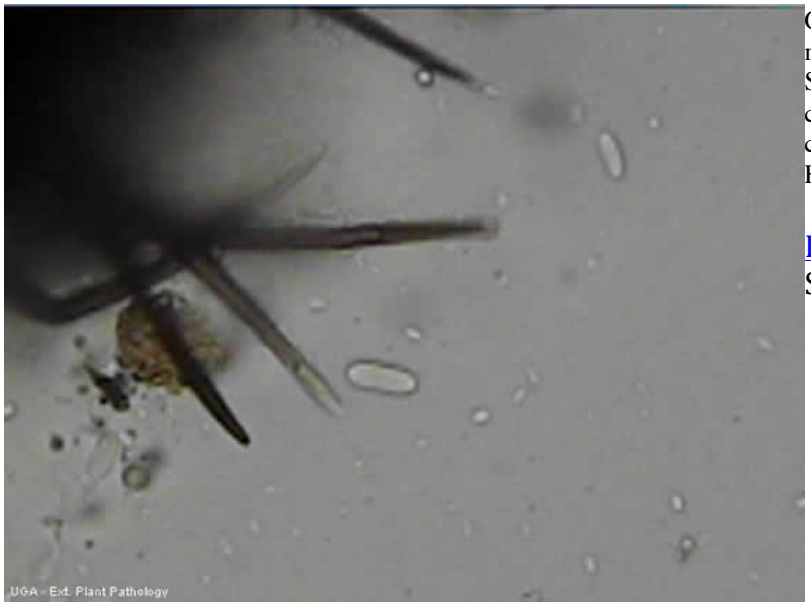


Colletotrichum commonly infects young succulent stems, petioles, and fruits, but all aboveground plant parts are susceptible. In general, leaf lesions are dark brown to black and may be associated initially with a leaf vein. Lesions initially appear as small, sunken water-soaked spots. Orange-pink to brownish spore masses may be seen on older lesions. A diagnostic feature of some *Colletotrichum* infections that can be seen with a hand lens is the production of dark tufts of setae (hair-like structures) within the lesion.





Colletotrichum produces spores within an acervulus (fungal fruiting structure). The disk or cushion shaped acervuli break through the surface of host tissue. Short, simple, colorless conidiophores produce abundant conidia. Long, black setae may or may not be produced among conidiophores.



Conidia are colorless when viewed alone, but may appear pink or salmon colored en mass. Spores are short, ovoid to cylindrical, and single celled. In some species, conidia are slightly curved in shape and may be confused with Fusarium spores.