

Papaya Foot Rot (*Phytophthora* sp.)

Florendo Quebral, Plant Pathologist, Northern Marianas College

Papaya foot rot, caused by a species of *Phytophthora*, is a disease that is characterized by the appearance of spongy, water-soaked patches on the bark at the soil line. The patches enlarge rapidly and girdle the stem, causing the tissue to rot. The tissues become black, and the plant topples and dies. The disease continues to spread in the roots and destroys them. If the bark is opened, the internal tissues appear dry and honey-combed.

The pathogen inhabits the soil. It is capable of growing and surviving on plant residues, but attacks living plants in the presence of a favorable host. Waterlogging is very conducive to disease development.



Stem or Foot Rot of Papaya


Control

The disease can be avoided if plants are grown in well-drained soil. Affected plants should be carefully dug up and destroyed by burning. Replanting should not be done in the same pit where disease has once appeared. When trees are weeded, care should be taken so that no injury is caused to the base of the stem.

If additional information is desired, consult an Extension Agent at your local land grant institution

*Replaces Agricultural Pests of the Pacific Series, ADAP 91-1.

For Further Information:

 **ADAP**
American Samoa Community College (684) 699-1575 - fax (684) 699-5011
College of Micronesia (691) 320-2462 - fax (691) 320-2726
College of Micronesia (FSM) (691) 320-2480 - fax (691) 320-2479
College of the Marshall Islands (692) 625-3236 - fax (692) 625-4699
Palau Community College (680) 488-2746 - fax (680) 488-3307
Northern Marianas College (670) 234-9023 - fax (670) 234-0054
University of Guam (671) 735-2002 - fax (671) 734-5600
University of Hawaii (808) 956-8140 - fax (808) 956-6967

Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Grant 99-38826-7854
ADAP Home Office - College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
3050 Maile Way, Gilmore Hall 213, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822 USA www.adap.hawaii.edu/adap - adap@hawaii.edu
The Pacific Land Grants and the U.S.D.A. are Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Institutions

Publishing and conversion into digital format made possible by funding from
USDA Western SARE PEOPLE Project, Utah State Subcontract #C019211,
Project #EW98011.