



Government of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Marine Resources

PEST ALERT

Frosty Pod Rot of Cocoa



Fig. 1
Photo Roy P. Bateman of IPARC



Fig. 2
Photo Roy P. Bateman of IPARC



Fig. 3
©2004 American Phytopath. Society

This disease is not present in Trinidad and Tobago

HELP KEEP TRINIDAD & TOBAGO FREE OF FROSTY POD ROT!

What is it?

Frosty Pod Rot is a disease of cocoa and is caused by the fungus, *Moniliophthora roreri*.

Origin and spread

The disease is confined to Central and South America. It first appeared in Columbia in 1917, and has spread to Ecuador, western Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico.

Spread

The fungus produces spores that are spread naturally by wind, water and movement of the infected pod. Spores can survive up to 9 months on any carrier - tools, shoes, clothes, equipment, vehicles and shipping containers.

Impact

Frosty Pod Rot disease has been reported to be twice as destructive as Black Pod rot disease. Average pod losses is over 30%, but can exceed 90% under favourable conditions.

Description

Symptoms are seen only on cocoa pods:

- Infected young pods show light yellow swellings and distortion (**Fig. 1**).
- Older pods ripen prematurely. Internally, the beans appear reddish brown and necrotic (**Fig. 2**).
- In advance stages, the pod typically shows chocolate-coloured lesions and the white/creamy fungus on the pod surface (**Fig. 3**).

Frosty Pod Rot and Black Pod Rot

These two diseases are similar in that they both cause rot of the cocoa pod. However, there are no swellings and distortions of the cocoa pod in Black Pod Rot.

What can I do?

Avoidance is the best strategy. Report any suspicious pod rot symptoms to Hotline.

**DO NOT BRING COCOA PODS
FROM INFECTED COUNTRIES!**

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