


## OLIVE ANTHRACNOSE

<p><b>CAUSE</b> In South Africa, olive Anthracnose (also known as Gloeosporium) is a fungal disease caused by the organism <i>Colletotrichum acutatum</i>.</p> <p><b>DAMAGE</b> Reduced yields and poor olive quality. Fruit becomes unusable for both table and oil purposes.</p>	<p><b>SUSCEPTIBILITY</b> Rainy or humid conditions are conducive to the spread of Anthracnose, especially at temperatures of 25°C. The disease may affect flowers, fruits or shoots to different extents, also depending on the cultivar. Spores are spread by rain splash and by some insects.</p>
<p><b>SYMPTOMS</b></p> <p><u>Flowers</u> Unopened flower caps show white tips. Flower clusters show small rust brown spots.</p> <p><u>Fruits</u> Infection is only visible on ripe fruit. Small depressed brown spots developing into concentric wrinkles on fruit surface. Small pustules producing masses of spores, seen as greasy pink/orange/brown areas on fruit surface.</p> <p><u>Shoots / Branches</u> Development of cankers. Wilting of leaves; defoliation. Die-back of branches.</p>	
<p><b>PREVENTION</b> Establish orchard in fields with low humidity and space trees to maximise aeration of canopies. Prune trees to provide adequate air circulation and exposure to sunlight. Balance plant nutrition by avoiding excess nitrogen and ensuring calcium levels are adequate. Harvest early if wet weather occurs near ripening. Spray suitable fungicides as a precautionary measure under dry conditions.</p>	<p><b>CONTROL</b></p> <p><u>Physical controls</u> Remove and destroy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infected fruit, branches and shoots.</li> <li>• dropped leaves and fruit.</li> <li>• mummified fruit on trees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Chemical controls (Active Ingredients)</u> Copper hydroxide Copper oxychloride Cuprous oxide Dithiocarbamate Mancozeb</p> <p><u>Timing of sprays</u> Post-harvest up to flower, with no fruit on the tree</p>

### DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet should be used as a guideline. SA Olive accepts no responsibility for any damages resulting from incorrect management and control of olive diseases. Contact SA Olive for information on chemicals registered for olives in South Africa.

### REFERENCES

- Australian Olive Association, 2022. <https://olivebiz.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ANTHRACNOSE.pdf>. Accessed on 3 December 2022.
- Costa, C., 1998. Olive Production in South Africa. ARC-Infruitec, Stellenbosch.
- Wikifarmer, 2022. <https://wikifarmer.com/anthracnose-in-olive-trees/>. Accessed on 3 December 2022.