



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

PLANT INSPECTION ADVISORY

NO. 06-01-2015

DATE: June 1, 2015
TO: Bureau of Plant & Apiary Inspectors and Supervisors
FROM: Tim Schubert, Biological Administrator III, FDACS-DPI Plant Pathology Section
SUBJECT: **Mango rachis** or inflorescence blight caused by *Neofusicoccum mangiferae*

During the summer of 2014, detector dogs in California alerted on a domestic mail package originating from Hollywood, Florida that contained mango fruit. The fruit yielded a couple of isolates of *Neofusicoccum*, one of which was confirmed by mycologists with the USDA as *N. mangiferae*, the causal agent of mango rachis or inflorescence blight. No previous reports of this pathogen have come from the mainland US. The most recent and geographically closest report of mango rachis blight comes from Puerto Rico in 2009. This BOLO serves to inform plant health inspectors about the disease and what it looks like so that samples can be submitted when and where appropriate.

This fungal pathogen is in a genus and family of fungi (Botryosphaeriaceae) with many other plant pathogens which are similar in morphology and that have undergone considerable taxonomic revision in recent years. It is possible that what we now recognize as *N. mangiferae* will have been present and unrecognized at low levels or misidentified as the cosmopolitan and often opportunistic *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* on Florida mangos for some time without drawing attention to itself or the disease it causes. Two recent publications out of Puerto Rico emphasize the difficulty in sorting out these two fungi in the Botryosphaeriaceae involved in identical blighting in mango inflorescences (Serrato-Diaz, L. M., *et al.*, 2014 and Serrato-Diaz, L. M., *et al.*, 2013). The later publication does not refer at all to the former report despite reporting on the same survey project and cataloguing indistinguishable symptoms.

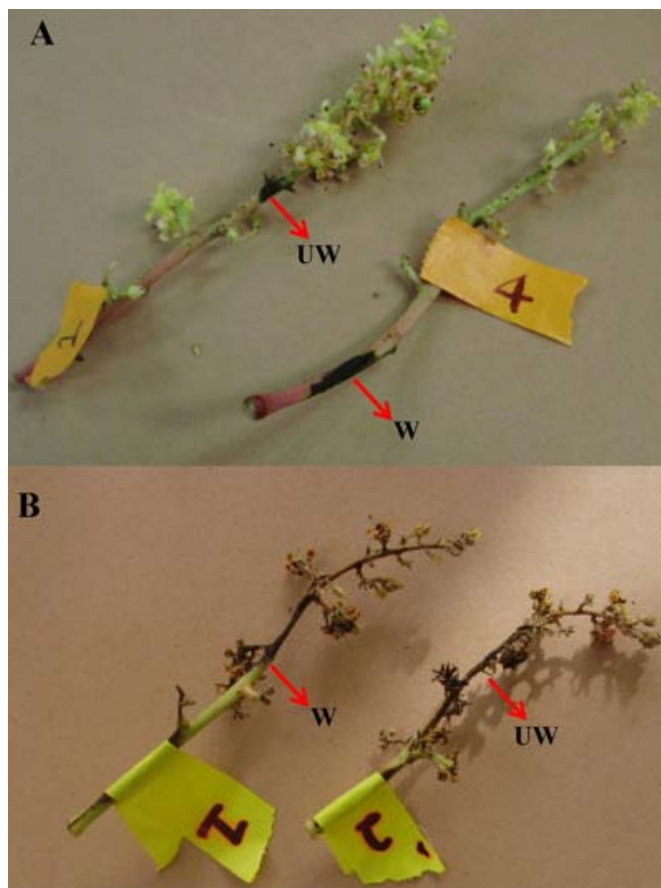
A prudent response by FDACS includes enhanced awareness of necrotic symptoms on mango flowers and fruit in areas of the state with climate mild enough to grow the crop. If you encounter symptoms similar to those shown in the attached photos, please forward photos of the

syndrome if possible and samples to the Plant Pathology Section of the Division of Plant Industry for further analysis.

Serrato-Diaz, L.M., L.I. Rivera-Vargas and R.D. French-Monar. 2014. First report of *Neofusicoccum mangiferae* causing rachis necrosis and inflorescence blight of mango (*Mangifera indica*) in Puerto Rico. Plant Disease 98:570.

<http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/abs/10.1094/PDIS-08-13-0878-PDN>

Serrato-Diaz, L.M., M. Perez-Cuevas, L.I. Rivera-Vargas and R.D. French-Monar. 2013. First report of *Neofusicoccum parvum* causing rachis necrosis of mango (*Mangifera indica*) in Puerto Rico. 2013. Plant Disease 97: 1381. <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/abs/10.1094/PDIS-03-13-0291-PDN>



Necrotic lesions eight days after inoculation on the rachis and flowers of 'Haden' (A) and 'Irwin' (B) *Mangifera indica* caused by *Neofusicoccum mangiferae*. Lesions marked 'UW' were on unwounded inoculated tissue; 'W' indicates the tissue was wounded before inoculation.

Photos from Serrato-Diaz, L.M., L.I. Rivera-Vargas and R.D. French-Monar. 2014. First report of *Neofusicoccum mangiferae* causing rachis necrosis and inflorescence blight of mango (*Mangifera indica*) in Puerto Rico. Plant Disease 98:570. <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/abs/10.1094/PDIS-08-13-0878-PDN>