



*Your Experts for Life*

**ANR-950**

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

## *Plant Disease Notes*

# **Crown Rot of Strawberries**

**C**rown rot or vascular collapse in strawberries is caused by the soilborne fungus *Phytophthora*.

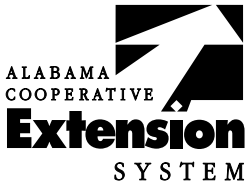
**Symptoms.** Symptoms usually begin in the upper part of the crown and spread downward. The youngest leaves wilt suddenly and often turn a bluish green. Wilting spreads quickly throughout the plant, and complete collapse occurs within days. Collapse may be one-sided, depending on the number of crowns infected. Infected plants will often break at the upper part of the crown when lifted from the soil. When cut lengthwise, the crown appears brown or sometimes rose pink throughout. Crown tissue will disintegrate with time. Below ground symptoms do not appear until the aboveground plant parts are dead. Plants may recover from the disease but are usually stunted. Symptoms are most common between flowering and harvest when the plants are under stress.

### **Persistence and Transmission.**

Warm, wet conditions and poorly drained soils favor infection. Symptom development is favored by high temperatures and low moisture conditions, factors that apparently stress the plant before harvest.

**Control.** Crown rot of strawberries can be controlled by the following strategies:

- Fumigate.
- Plant resistant varieties. (Refer to Extension publication ANR-633, "Commercial Strawberry Production.")
- Provide adequate soil drainage (plant strawberries in raised beds).
- Avoid low, wet fields and fields with a history of crown rot.



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Use chemicals only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions, and restrictions that are listed.

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**For more information**, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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