Ascospores germinate and infect senescing petals as they fall to the ground or are trapped in canopy.

Fungus grows out of senescing tissue onto healthy stems and leaves.

The fungus can colonize healthy tissue rapidly producing water soaked lesions and may produce white mold growth depending on conditions.

White Mold Life Cycle

Infection of plant at soil line

Sclerotia may germinate directly, producing mycelia that infect and colonize neighboring healthy tissue.

SPRING and EARLY SUMMER

Sclerotia germinate producing apothecia.

SUMMER

Infected tissue decays leaving sclerotia inside and outside, and stems are hollowed and bleached.

FALL and WINTER

Fungus overwinters as sclerotia in plant debris and soil.