

Cylindrocladium rot

Calonectria illicicola (fungus)

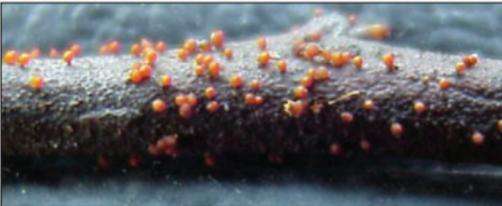
This fungal disease of cuttings in propagation beds occurs mostly in the southeastern United States. It is also common in ornamental plant nurseries.

Symptoms. Circular patches of dead cuttings appear in propagation beds as the disease rapidly spreads from an initial infected cutting.



Disease cycle. Infections are thought to originate from nearby infected trees (oak, sweet gum, tulip poplar).

Initial infection of young shoots may occur in the field or after cuttings are stuck. Spores are splash-dispersed to infect surrounding cuttings. The fungus overwinters in infested rooting media.



Orange fungal fruiting bodies (perithecia) on the surface of a dead stem.

Management. Start with clean rooting media and do not reuse old media; avoid placing propagation beds under trees that may be a source of disease; remove diseased cuttings and treat with fungicides.