



AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Fact Sheet

Pepper Disorders

Sunscald

Found worldwide



Symptoms

Affected areas are straw-colored or white, soft, sunken, and wrinkled. These dead areas form only on the side exposed to the sun, in contrast to blossom end rot where the symptoms will appear on unexposed areas as well. The dead areas eventually become papery in texture, and may become dark-colored if infection by secondary fungi occurs. Fruit affected by sunscald is unmarketable.

Conditions for Disease Development

This occurs on fruit suddenly exposed to intense sunlight at high temperatures and high humidities. Sudden exposure may be due to loss of foliage cover, defoliation, or prolonged wilting. Also, breakage of branches due to rough handling during harvest or from heavy rains may expose fruit to sunscald.

Control

No resistant cultivars are available. Provide sufficient nitrogen for healthy plant growth. Keep foliage healthy by controlling diseases and insect pests. Also, avoid drought stress. If feasible, provide support for pepper plants by use of stakes or use of string running along the rows, or wire running horizontally along the beds.

How to Identify Sunscald



Sunken, light-colored areas found on sides of fruit exposed to sun

For more information on the production of pepper and other vegetables, go to www.avrdc.org.

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