



KALRO/NAVCDP Factsheet No. 046 /2024

Integrated Management of Crown Rot/ Root Rot Disease in Pyrethrum

Crown Rot / root rot Disease

Crown rot (also known as root rot) is a disease of pyrethrum caused by a number of fungal pathogens including *Fusarium* spp., *Rhizoctonia* spp., *Sclerotinia minor* and *Ascochyta* spp.

It can result to yield loss of 30 - 60%. The fungi remain in pyrethrum stalks, which become a source of infections in subsequent seasons.

Symptoms (how the disease manifests itself)

- Initially, dark brown necrotic lesions appear on roots and basal parts of the plant.
- The lesions later turn into root rot. The plant wilts leading to premature death.



Crown rot (source Collins, Mica Kentegra)

Management

Cultural practices

- Plant certified seedlings or splits
- Practise crop rotation with legumes for at 2-3 seasons
- Avoid overhead irrigation to reduce splash of the pathogen to healthy plants
- Uproot and destroy severely affected plants & bury deep or burn them.

Chemical control

- Use carbendazim- or azoxystrobin-based products (e.g. Bendazim and Ortiva) according to the manufacturers' recommendations.



Root rot (source Collins, Mica Kentegra)



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Disclaimer: The content of this publication is for general information to farmers and technical staff only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of the information herein without professional advice from crop health experts.

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