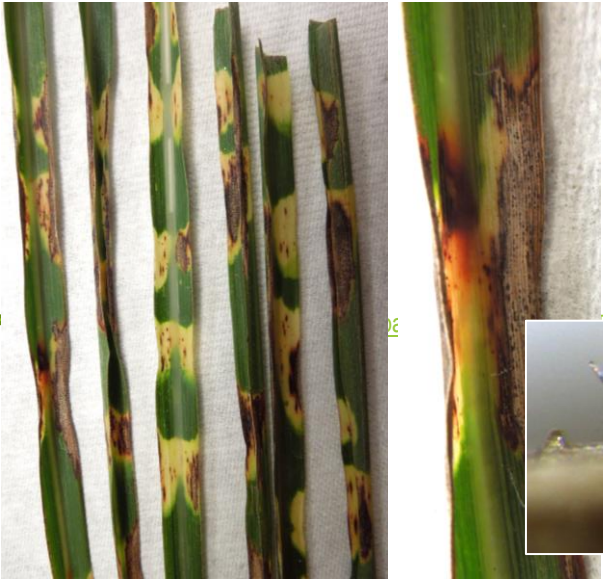


# Anthracnose Disease of Miscanthus: Guidelines for Growers



- Miscanthus is susceptible to anthracnose caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum*.
- Anthracnose is primarily a problem on *M. sinensis* varieties.
- Interestingly, the fungus infects the light colored areas of the leaf blade.
- The infected and bordering leaf tissue may turn a fiery orange color, which is often mistaken as the normal coloration of the leaf.
- As the disease progresses, the infected tissue becomes necrotic.
- Black, whisker-like fungal structures may be observed within the tan, necrotic leaf lesions.

- Curative approaches to managing anthracnose generally do not provide adequate control.
- Anthracnose can be a stress-induced disease
- Keep plants evenly moist
- Use a slow release, medium rate fertilizer
- Space plants to reduce humidity within the canopy
- Drip irrigate, or water when leaves will dry the quickest
- Preventive fungicide applications will help to manage this disease.

- *Colletotrichum* can develop resistance to fungicides.
- Fungicides that have a single-site inhibitor are at most risk for having the fungus develop resistance.
- There is widespread resistance to Qol and benzimidazole fungicides. To prevent disease resistance rotate products with different modes of action.

- Infection likely starts long before symptoms are expressed.
- Plant stress or hot temperatures with high humidity and moisture may trigger disease development.
- Depending on geographic region, symptoms may appear mid-season and the disease continues to progress until natural senescence.
- The ideal time to apply fungicides may be about one month prior to when symptoms have been first observed in prior growing seasons.



A. Windham UTK

| Fungicide              | Active ingredient  | Chemical class |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Daconil Ultrex         | Chlorothalonil     | nitrile        |
| Empress Intrinsic      | Pyraclostrobin     | Qol            |
| Heritage               | Azoxystrobin       | Qol            |
| Disarm                 | Fluoxastrobin      | Qol            |
| Trinity                | Triticonazole      | DMI            |
| Affirm                 | Polyoxin D         | polyoxins      |
| Medallion              | Fludioxonil        | phenylpyrroles |
| 3336*                  | Thiophanate-methyl | benzimidazole  |
| *tank mix with Daconil |                    |                |

Suggested rotation: Daconil / Qol / Daconil / Trinity / Daconil / Affirm or Medallion or 3336