



CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

FROSTY POD ROT



Image credit: Plantwise.org

The Frosty Pod Rot pathogen *Moniliophthora roreri* originated in Western Columbia/Ecuador. This pathogen expanded to Africa, Asia, and insular Caribbean. The disease devastates the pod of the cocoa plant.

The disease is so severe that it has contributed to soil erosion, forested landscapes, and habitat loss for wildlife. Frosty pod rot can cause complete crop failure.



Image credit: JamaicaGleaner.com



Image credit: Plantwise.org

Symptoms of this disease may include:

- White fungal growth on the outside of the pod
- Pre-mature ripening of the cocoa pod
- Underweight cocoa pod
- Spots or dark-brown patches on the pod

The fungus *M. roreri* can spread naturally by wind or air currents due to its spores.



The spores from the diseased cocoa pods, which can from pruned or harvested cocoa can remain viable for up to 9 months on areas like clothing, shoes, vehicles, tools etc.

What can you do?

- Do NOT bring into your country any fruit or agricultural produce without the required Plant Quarantine Import Permits/Approval
- When you travel declare all agricultural items
- Report any infested (pierced or larvae present) fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture. If frosty pod rot are present do not sell or transport infested fruit
- Follow all control recommendations from your Ministry or Department of Agriculture