Common fruit rots of wine grapes in Australia

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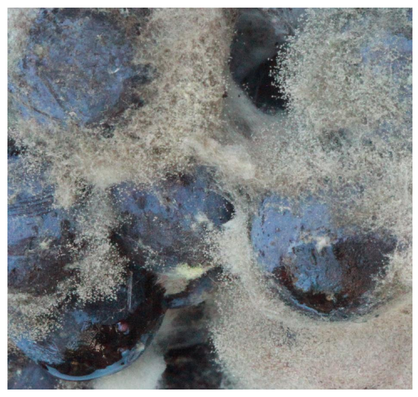
Mixed infections

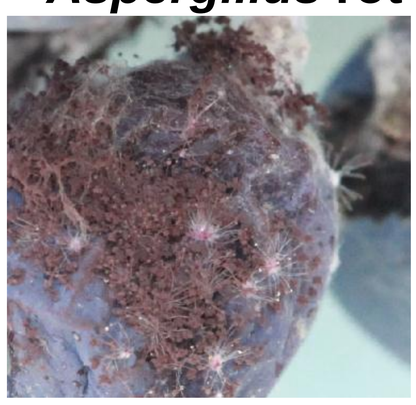
Bunch rots on grapevines can be caused by a range of fungi, yeasts and some bacteria, including acetic acid species. These rots are often difficult to identify when they occur together in the same bunch.

Botrytis rot or gray mould



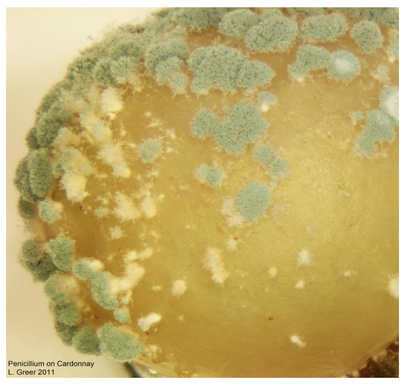
The most common and destructive fruit rot. It produces light grey or colourless spores at the ends of branched dark brown stalks.

Aspergillus rot or black mould



Common in warm to hot areas. Damaged berries first show tan to brown fungus that develops a dusty mass of brown or black spores.

Penicillium rot or blue mould

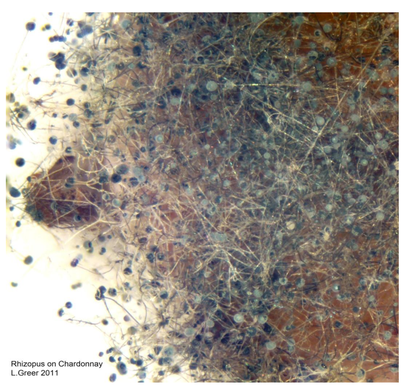


Produces dusty blue-green spores. Often seen in split berries following rain or skin damage. Occurs with any of the other bunch rots. The distinctive colour of this rot makes it easy to identify.

Alternaria rot

Tan colour, becoming brown with age. Fluffy grey tufts of fungus develop through cracks in the berry skin. Infection can occur through the skin in wet bunches or under very high humidity.

Rhizopus rot



A soft brown rot that drips juice. High humidity causes cobweb like black mycelia to develop. Dark spore producing structures appear in skin cracks or damaged berries and is often associated with sour rot.

Sour rot

Various fungi, yeasts, acetic acid bacteria and vinegar fly larvae, combined with other organisms, can cause sour rot. Juice from infected berries smells like vinegar. The rot can spread in the bunch.

Colletotrichum or ripe rot

Round skin spots develop, covering the whole berry with salmon-coloured spores. Berries shrivel and can drop. Ripe rot occurs late in the season, frequently in open canopies with sunburn.

Greeneria or bitter rot

Concentric rings of black spores develop around the berry. White grapes develop a brownish colour, black grapes have a rough appearance. Berries shrivel and can drop or remain attached to the bunch.

Rots associated with wood diseases

Botryosphaeria

Phomopsis

nwgic.com.au

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