

Mango sudden decline syndrome

What is Mango sudden decline syndrome?

Mango sudden decline syndrome (MSDS) describes one or a series of diseases and disease symptoms, including blight, canker, gummosis, twig blight, tip dieback and vascular staining, caused by several species of the fungus *Ceratocystis*. The disease is widespread and can be very destructive, particularly when introduced into a new area.

What does it look like?

MSDS causes parts or all of the tree to wilt and die. Amber coloured gum exudes from the bark of branches and trunks and vascular tissue is discoloured, firstly blue-grey but then chocolate brown as the disease progresses. Pin-sized holes, caused by the Mango bark beetle, which can spread the disease, are also often present.

What can it be confused with?

MSDS can be confused with other fungal pathogens or termite damage that can cause decline of major branches. The Brown root rot fungus (*Phellinus noxius*) has also been recorded causing a sudden wilt and death of mango trees.

What should I look for?

Wilting or death of a major branch of the tree followed by complete tree death. Pare back the bark and look for a blue-grey staining of the vascular tissue or in more advanced cases a light brown to chocolate brown rot of the sap wood.



Staining of vascular tissues due to MSDS

Ali Obaid Al-Adawi, Ministry of Agriculture, Sultanate of Oman



Vascular tissue becomes brown as disease progresses

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Boreholes from the Mango bark beetle may be present

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How does it spread?

The lifecycle of the disease is not fully understood, however there is clear evidence for the role of the Mango bark beetle in spreading the disease.

Where is it now?

MSDS has been reported from Brazil, Pakistan and Oman.

How can I protect my orchard from Mango sudden decline syndrome?

Source plant material only from clean, accredited suppliers and preferably material that is certified. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common mango diseases so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Amber coloured gum exudes from the bark of the trunk

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Early signs include wilting of branches

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Wilted branches later die, leading to death of whole trees

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