

Colletotrichum Leaf and Fruit Spot of Fig, *Ficus carica* L.1

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INTRODUCTION: The origin of the common edible fig, *Ficus carica* L., is reported to be from the old world tropics and the Mediterranean region (Krezdorn and Dubois 1981). Early writings indicate that the fig has been in cultivation since the 4th century B.C. Figs were introduced into the new world by Spanish explorers during the 16th century A.D. (Condit 1955). Although grown primarily for their fruit, figs are attractive ornamental plantings (Everett 1981)

CAUSAL AGENT AND DISTRIBUTION: The fungus *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Penz. & Sacc. has been shown to be the causal agent of a leaf and fruit spot on *Ficus carica* (Alfieri and El-Gholl 1985; Alfieri *et al.* 1994; Fan *et al.* 1989). The disease has been variously reported to be associated with *Colletotrichum elasticae* Tassi., *Gloeosporium elasticae* (Thuem.) Cooke & Massee, and *G. intermedium* Sacc. These species are now considered to be synonyms of *C. gloeosporioides* with *Glomerella cingulata* (Stoneman) Spauld. and H. Schrenk as the sexual or perfect state of the fungus (Fan *et al.* 1989). The fungus can infect nonwounded tissues under conditions of high humidity (Alfieri and El-Gholl 1985). The disease has been reported from Florida and other southeastern states (Fan *et al.* 1989).



Fig. 1. *Colletotrichum* leaf spot on fig. Photography credit: V. Jane Windsor (DPI# 702503-1).



Fig. 2. *Colletotrichum* fruit spot on fig. Photography credit: V. Jane Windsor (DPI# 702850-19).

SYMPTOMS: The leaf spots are brown, subcircular, necrotic, and surrounded by a prominent yellow halo (Fig. 1). Fruit spots are dark brown and irregular in shape (Fig. 2).

CONTROL: No fungicide is EPA-approved for use on edible fig grown in Florida (Simone *et al.* 1993).

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