

B-64 Anthracnose on big onion (*Allium cepa*) cultivated for seed production

W A P Geethani Weeraratne, G M W Chithral, E R S P Edirimanna, L C Wijetilaka

(Field Crops Research and Development Institute (FCRDI), Maha Illuppallama)

Seed production in Big onion variety Rampur red raised at FCRDI, Maha Illuppallama was affected by a new disease called Anthracnose, Symptoms

appeared in late February. The disease incidence was 20 - 30 % in the affected plots.

Disease symptoms were observed on lower leaves and flower stalks. Isolations were made from infected leaves and flower stalks, and the pathogen was identified as a fungus *Glomerella cingulata* (Stonmen) (Conidial state: *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*).

The pathogenicity of the fungus was tested on plants grown in a glasshouse. The plants were inoculated with a spore suspension (10^5 conidia/ml) by prickling the neck of the plants. Symptoms were reproduced and the fungus was re-isolated from artificially infected plants.

This is the first reported incidence of Anthracnose on Big onion cultivated for seed purpose. Usually purple blotch caused by *Alternaria porri* is important during late Maha. Apart from that Anthracnose could be a potential threat in the future.