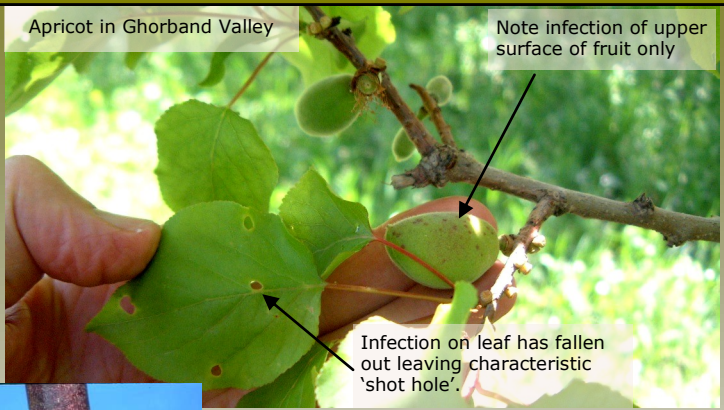
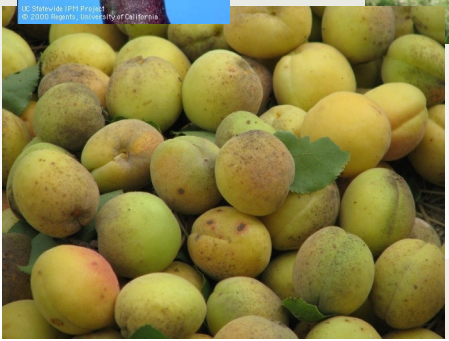
SHOT HOLE—PEACH, ALMOND, APRICOT—*Wilsonomyces carpophilus*



Peach twig with dead bud, gumming, and shot hole lesions

Almond in Balkh showing symptoms of shot hole on



Apricots showing a mixture of shot hole and sooty mould on honeydew from aphids

SHOT HOLE

Description

'Shot hole' is the description of the leaf symptoms caused by two distinct diseases: 1) a fungus affecting apricot and sometimes peach or almond; 2) a bacteria attacking cherry and plum. This card only describes the fungus: in Afghanistan, it is very common on apricot. The spots appear on the upper side of the fruit making it unsalable. The spots persist on dried fruit making it also unattractive.

During wet winter months, the fungal spores from old twig lesions infect and kill dormant buds. This process requires 24 hours of continuous wetness. Further release of spores during wet weather around blossom and fruit set infects fruitlets and leaves.

Monitoring

Monitoring is best done on fruit in the previous harvest. Sample 500 fruits If damage is present, a dormant season spray is required.

Weather data around blossom will indicate whether sprays at flowering are needed to protect the fruit, especially apricots.

Control

Pruning and removing diseased wood is important.

Dormant season sprays of copper in early winter are the first defence against shot hole. Either Bordeaux mixture can be made up on farm or a commercial formulation of copper can be purchased.

To protect fruit, sprays at red bud, full bloom and petal fall are recommended. Copper is not safe at this stage and the following are recommended: thiram (TMTD), ziram, azoxystrobin* (or other strobilurin fungicide), chlorothalonil*, iprodione*, vinclozolin*. Those marked * are particularly recommended as they also control blossom wilt / twig canker / brown rot (*Monilinia laxa, M. fructicola*) if sprayed during blossom.