

Husk spot in macadamia

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Points to consider

Husk spot, caused by a fungal pathogen *Pseudocercospora macadamiae*, is a major disease of macadamia in Australia and should be controlled.

The fungus may persist in diseased old husks (sticktights) for over 2 years. The spores are most effectively spread by rain-splash from diseased sticktights to green husks.

Infections at the beginning of the season, at the 'match-head' stage of nut development are the most critical that may result in significant premature nut drop.

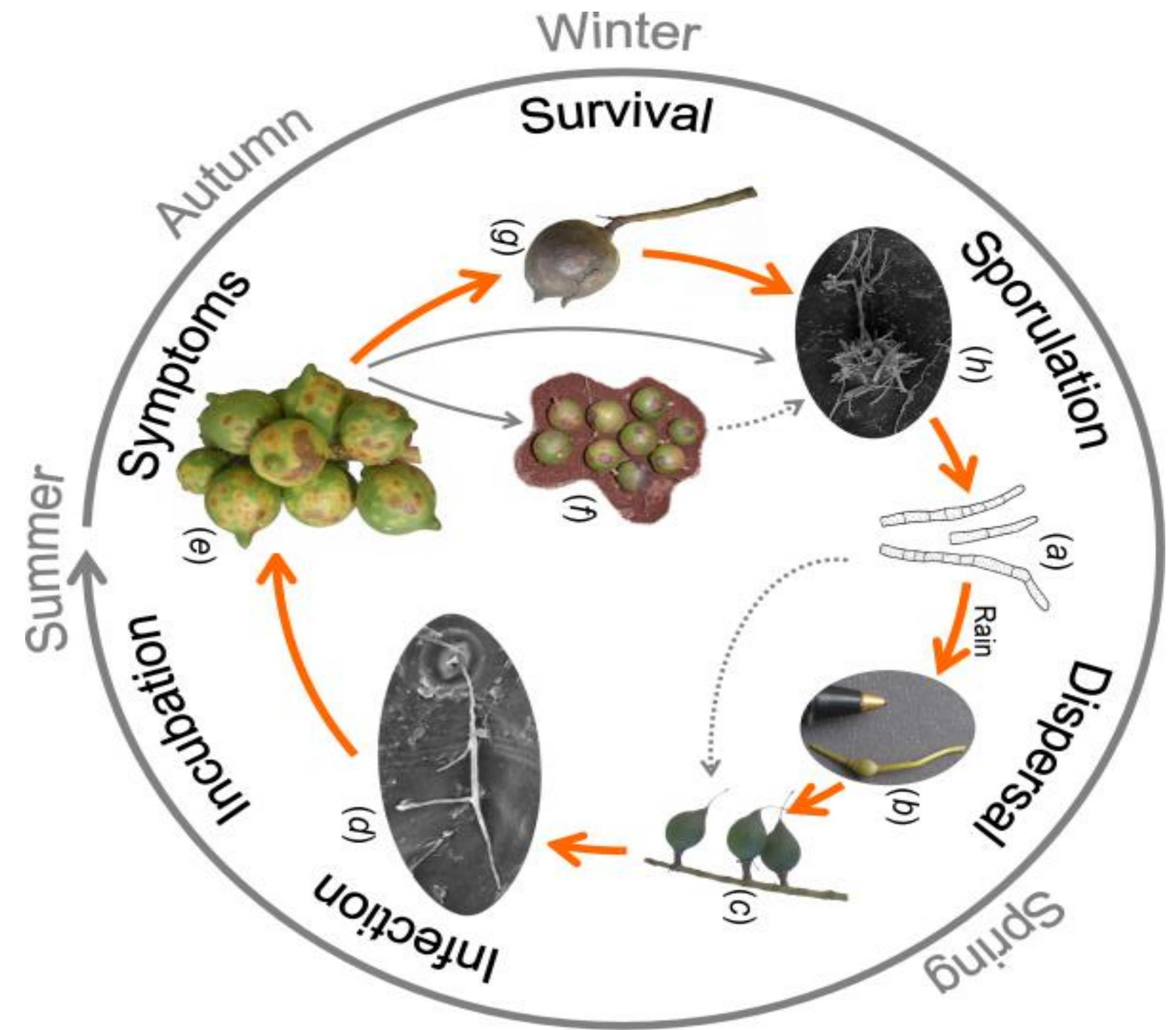
Cultivars with high amount of sticktights in the tree canopy and history of husk spot are very susceptible to annual disease occurrence.

Incessant wet weather conditions (wind-driven rains) significantly increase the risk of most cultivars to husk spot and premature nut drop.

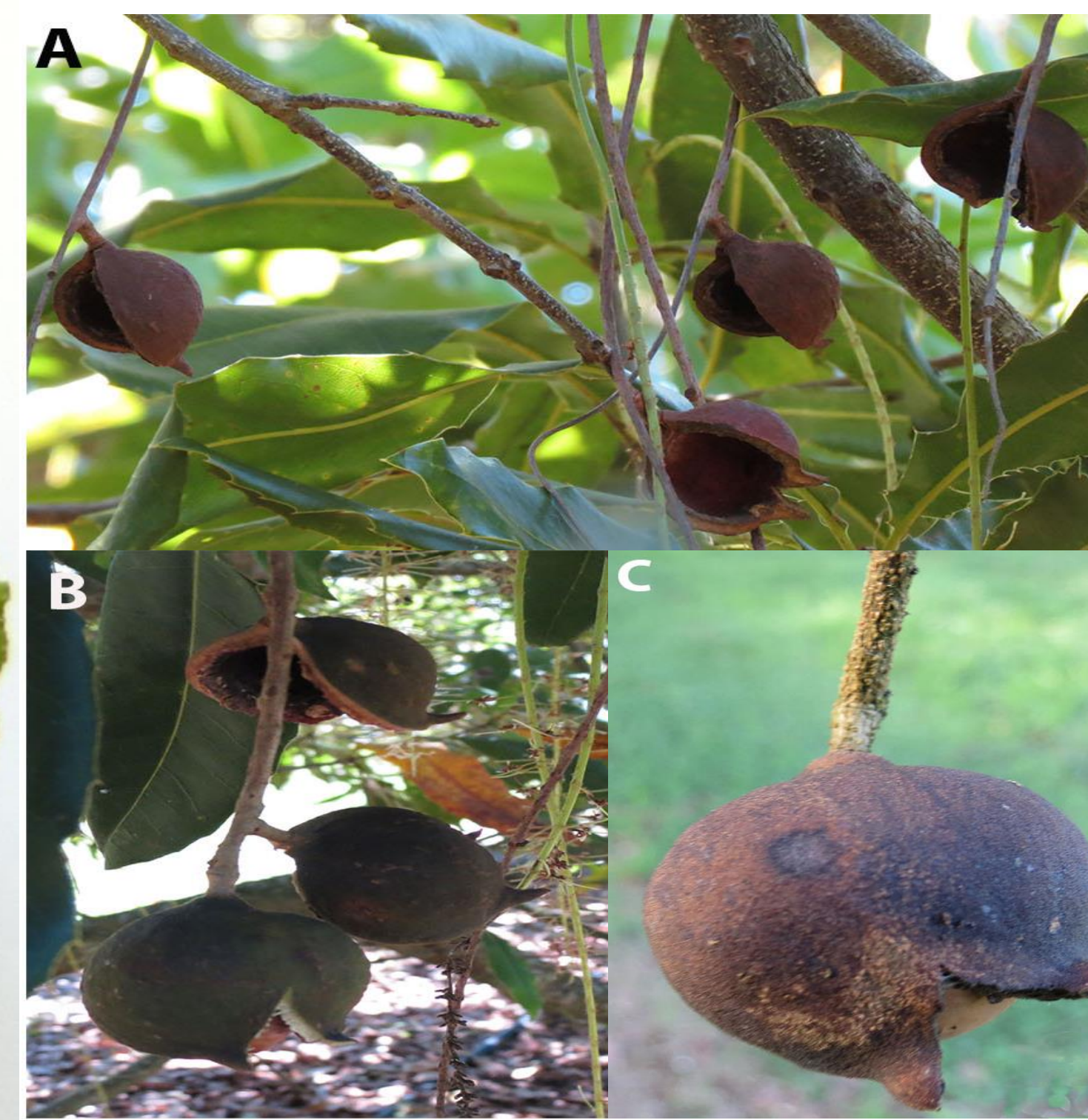
Key diagnostic features:

- Husk spot lesion is harder than the surrounding green tissue.
- Lesions progress from chlorotic spots to brown necrotic lesions
- In advanced stage of lesion development, the underside of the husk may show necrotic lesions.

Disease cycle



Husk spot symptoms & sources of spores



Top 10 Susceptible Varieties

Own venture	H2
A38	A268
A16	816
781	842
	849

Control Strategies

