

# GREEN FRUIT ROTS

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Green fruit rots, *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex. Fr. (gray mold) and *Monilinia fructicola* (Wint.) Honey (brown rot), develop from latent infection of the gray mold and brown rot fungi. Most green fruit rot is initiated in damaged ovules or fruit damaged by insect-punctures or hail (Figure 1). Latent brown rot lesions commonly develop on fruit when wounding results in elevated levels of sugar in the fruit. Very close inspection can reveal latent infection lesions, tiny necrotic spots barely visible to the naked eye. These lesions are easily missed or confused with other minor injuries. Latent brown rot infections are thought to develop into green fruit rot when wetness periods exceed 30 hours. The lesion expands rapidly and can involve entire young fruit. Eventually the infected fruit may be covered with grayish brown spore masses. If conditions are right, all stages of fruit development are susceptible. Green fruit rot can be a very significant source of inoculum for pre-harvest brown rot. Scouting for blossom blight (as a source of inoculum) and adoption of fungicide programs effective against both scab and brown rot until the inoculum source dries up should preclude green fruit rot outbreaks. Because many fungicides do not control both green fruit rot organisms, it is important to know whether brown rot or gray mold is involved. *Botrytis* is less common.



**Figure 1.** Brown rot development on an insect-damaged green fruit.

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