

# LEAF ROT DISEASE IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Leaf rot disease was reported in Weligama, Kaburugamuwa, Sulthanagoda and Hambantota areas. The Coconut Research Institute has implemented several control programmes in collaboration with the Coconut Cultivation Board.

## Etiology of Damage

Several fungi have been isolated from diseased lesions from the spindle. Most common of them isolated from the yellow spots are *Gleosporium sp.*, *Exserohilum sp.*, *Gliocladium sp.*, *Rhizoctonia sp.*, *Chalaropsis sp.*, *Pestalotiopsis sp.*, *Chalaropsis sp.*, and *Fusarium sp.*. Several fungal species and their fast spreading habits during rainy season cause severe damage to coconut plantations. The diseased palms show symptoms of reduction of photosynthetic area of tender leaves, reduction in root numbers and causes reduction in nut production.

## Disease Management

Remove the affected fronds and tender leaves. Also apply balanced fertilizer and

improve the drainage conditions, which will help to improve the vigor of plants.



## Drenching of Fungicides

Drench one of the fungicides as per recommendation.

1. Drench 1 liter of 1% copper fungicide solution
2. Tridemorph (Calixin) solution (10 ml/l)
3. Tebuconazol (Folicur) (4 ml/l)