

# Millet

## Head Mold

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### Identification and Life Cycle

Several fungi can cause a head mold of millet, including *Alternaria* spp, *Aspergillus* spp., and *Fusarium* spp. among others. Infection by these pathogens is favored by cool, wet weather, and tends to be worse on late-planted millet. Insect feeding and mechanical injury can aggravate head mold. Head mold pathogens may be disseminated by splashing water, windblown spores, or infested seed. Infested crop debris, other plants, and seed can support over-wintering populations of head mold fungi.

### Plant Response and Damage

Head mold symptoms vary depending on the casual pathogen, but may include a white, mealy coating (*Oidium tenellum*), a black, wooly mat (*Helminthosporium* spp.), pink mycelial growth (*Fusarium* spp.), or others diverse symptoms.

### Management Approaches

#### Biological Control

No biological control strategies have been developed for head mold.

#### Cultural Control

Timely harvest of millet is the only practical disease management strategy available. Varieties that do not head or mature during the wettest parts of the growing season may escape severe infection.

#### Chemical Control

No chemical controls are available for foliar treatment of head mold. Seed should be treated with a broad-spectrum fungicide to reduce surface contamination.

*Product List for Head Mold:*

<b>Pesticide</b>	<b>Rate per 100 lb seed</b>	<b>Application Frequency (days)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Captan—various formulations available</b>			
Captan 75	6-9 oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum, but weak

			against <i>Pythium</i>
<b>Fludioxonil</b>			
Maxim 4FS	0.034-0.068 fl oz	Seed treatment	Suppression of <i>Fusarium</i> and <i>Rhizoctonia</i> spp.
<b>Metalaxyl/Mefenoxam</b>			
Apron XL LS	0.32-0.64 fl oz	Seed treatment	Suppression of <i>Pythium</i> and <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.
Allegiance-FL	0.75-1.5 fl oz	Seed treatment	Suppression of <i>Pythium</i> and <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.
Ridomil Gold EC	0.25-1 pts	Broadcast application	Suppression of <i>Pythium</i> and <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.
<b>Thiram</b>			
42-S Thiram	8 fl oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum
Thiram 50WP	8 oz	Seed treatment	Broad spectrum

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Categories: Millet, Disease, Head Mold

Date: 03/22/2005