



A



H



I



J



U



B



C



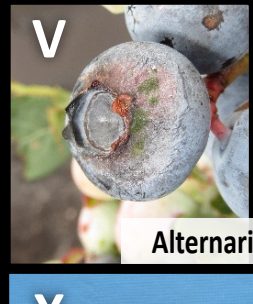
K



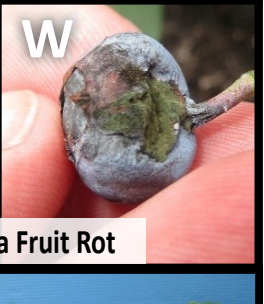
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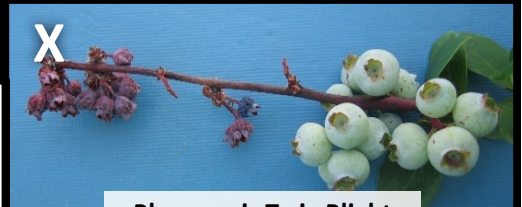
D



E

Botrytis Flower Blight and Fruit Rot (Gray Mold)

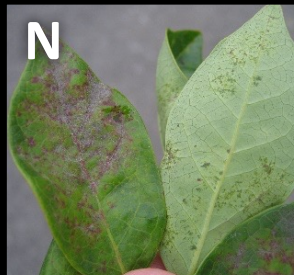
A Photo Guide to BLUEBERRY DISEASES IN THE SOUTHEAST



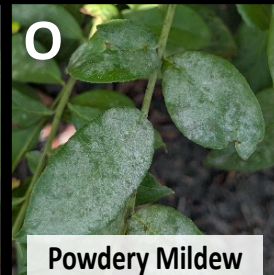
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AA

Dodder

Algal Stem Blotch

Botryosphaeria Stem Blight

Botryosphaeria Stem Canker

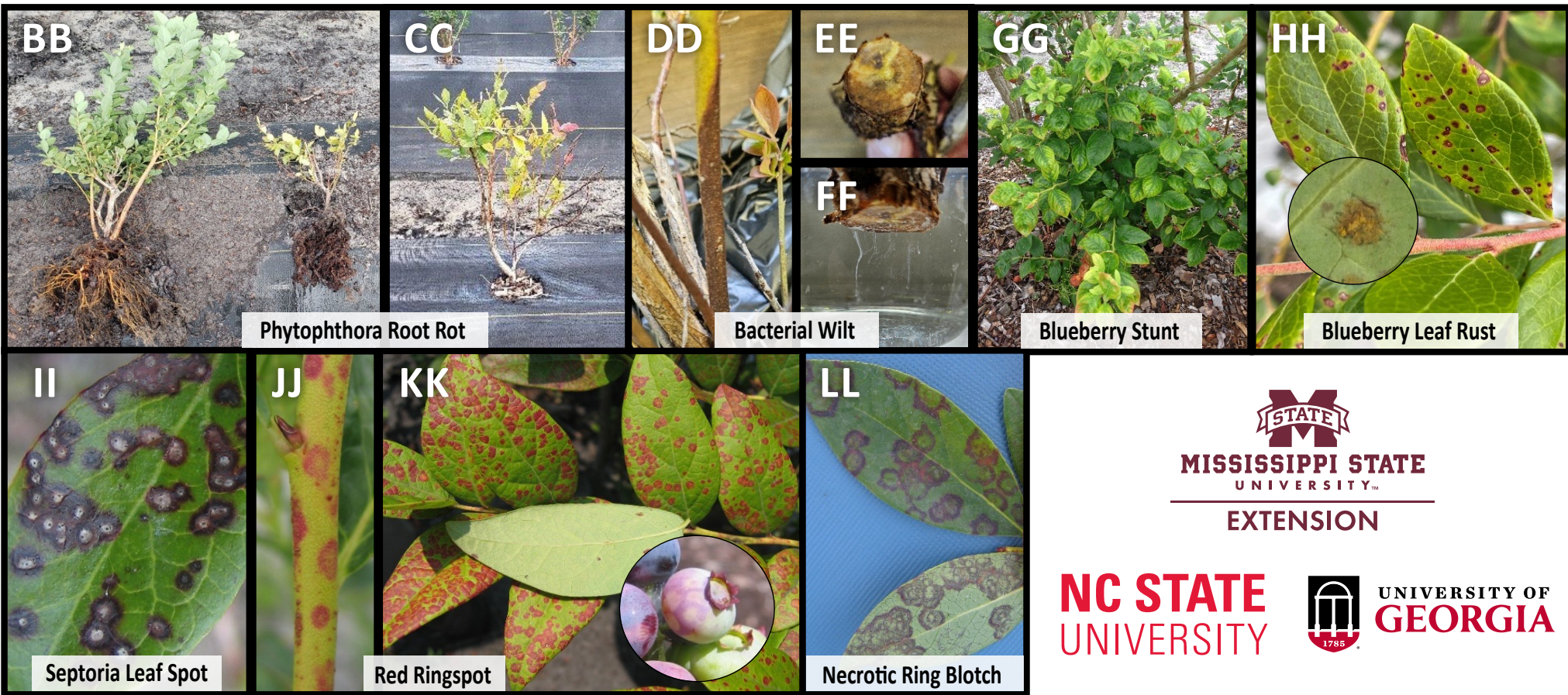
Exobasidium Fruit and Leaf Spot

Alternaria Fruit Rot

Phomopsis Twig Blight

Mummy Berry

Bacterial Leaf Scorch



Phytophthora Root Rot

Bacterial Wilt

Blueberry Stunt

Blueberry Leaf Rust

Septoria Leaf Spot

Red Ringspot

Necrotic Ring Blotch



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Photos: Signs and symptoms of blueberry diseases in the Southeast.

(A–E): Mummy berry. Infected fruit turns pink, shrivels, and hardens to form mummies (A). Initially, white to cream fungal growth is visible inside mummies (B). Mummies fall, turn grayish, and produce fruiting bodies (apothecia) in early spring (C). Spores from apothecia infect emerging leaves and result in blighted shoots (D) on which masses of gray spores may be visible (E).

(F–G): Bacterial leaf scorch. Leaves of infected plants develop a marginal scorch, often forming an oak leaf pattern (F); symptoms may initially be limited to individual stems. Infected stems lose leaves prematurely (G), and plants eventually die.

(H–J): Anthracnose fruit rot (AFR) and leaf spot (ALS). AFR: Sunken lesions develop on fruit (H); over time, orange spore masses develop on the surface of infected fruit (I). ALS: Zonate lesions (with target-like zones or bands) develop on leaves, often near leaf edges (J).

(K–M): Botrytis flower blight and fruit rot (gray mold). Flowers (K) and damaged berries (L–M) are most often affected. Masses of gray spores develop on infected tissues, creating a fuzzy appearance (K–M).

(N–P): Powdery mildew. Pale lesions that turn red with age initially develop on the upper and lower surface of leaves (N) and are followed by the development of powdery, white fungal growth on the surface of infected leaves (O–P). Eventually, small, black fungal fruiting bodies develop within this fungal growth (P).

(Q): Dodder. This parasitic plant produces spaghetti-like growth that covers the host plant (Q) and seed pods that develop in tight spirals around stems (inset).

(R–S): Algal stem blotch: Infected shoots exhibit pale yellow, bleached leaves (R). Felt-like patches of dark orange fruiting bodies develop on stems (S).

(T) Botryosphaeria stem blight. Leaves of infected plants turn brown to red and remain attached to stems (flagging) but rapidly dry out (T). Symptoms typically develop on individual branches (T) before spreading throughout a plant. Infected stem tissue exhibits a uniform brown discoloration (inset).

(U): Exobasidium fruit and leaf spot. Pale green lesions that turn brown develop on leaves. When fungal sporulation begins, the area on the underside of leaves opposite lesions is white. Green lesions that become pinkish and sunken develop on fruit and are highly visible when fruit ripens. Infected fruit are often misshapen.

(V–W): Alternaria fruit rot: Sunken lesions develop on overripe or damaged fruit (V). Dark green spores are often visible on infected fruit (W).

(X–Y) Phomopsis twig blight. Infection begins at flower buds. Twigs die back from the tip until most or all buds are killed (X). Older wood is not affected. Small, round fungal fruiting bodies may be visible, embedded in infected twigs (Y).

(Z–AA): Botryosphaeria stem canker. Small lesions develop on new, succulent growth (Z) and develop into cankers with deep fissures as stems age (AA).

(BB–CC): Phytophthora root rot. Infected plants (right) have decaying roots and root collars, are stunted, and have reduced root growth compared to healthy (left) plants (BB). Leaves of infected plants often turn yellow or redden prematurely (CC).

(DD–FF): Bacterial wilt. Infected plants have blackened stems (DD) with dark, mottled vascular discoloration (EE). Cut stem ends exude milky streams of bacteria (bacterial streaming) when suspended in water (FF).

(GG): Blueberry stunt. Infected plants exhibit stunting. Leaves exhibit cupping and interveinal yellowing (GG). Disease may be confused with herbicide injury.

(HH): Blueberry leaf rust. Yellow (chlorotic) lesions that become reddish-brown with yellow halos develop on leaves (HH). Pustules of orange spores (inset) develop on the underside of leaves opposite lesions.

(II): Septoria leaf spot. White to tan lesions with purple margins develop on leaves (II). Flat or sunken lesions may develop on stems. Defoliation occurs when disease is severe.

(JJ–KK): Red ringspot. Red ringspots with green centers develop on stems (JJ) and leaves (KK),

primarily on the upper surface of leaves. Spots are only faintly visible on the lower surface of leaves. Ringspots may also develop on fruit (KK, inset). Infection is systemic.

(LL): Necrotic ring blotch. Reddish-brown to black rings or blotches with green centers develop on leaves, are visible on both sides of the leaf, and may coalesce to cover entire leaves, leading to defoliation. Infection is not systemic.

Note: Many diseases produce similar symptoms. Images alone often cannot be used to obtain an accurate diagnosis. For more information on blueberry diseases, see the [Southeast Regional Blueberry Integrated Management Guide](#) and the [MyIPM app for Fruits & Nuts](#).

Photo credits: (A–G, J–N, P–Q, T–X, Z–AA, DD–FF, II–LL, insets Q, T, KK) W. Cline, NCSU; (H–I, O) C. Bollenbacher, NCSU; (R, BB–CC) P. Harmon, Univ. of Florida; (S) J. Oliver, Univ. of Georgia; (Y, HH inset) B. Watt, Univ. of Maine; (GG) P. Brannen, Univ. of Georgia; (HH) R. A. Melanson, MSU Extension, [Bugwood.org](#).

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