

THE BIOLOGY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY OF WALNUT ANTHRACNOSE IN WEST AZARBAIDJAN PROVINCE

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In recent years, especially during 1997-98, walnut anthracnose (*Marssonina juglandis*) caused heavy damage (upto 90%) to walnut trees in West Azarbaijan. Initial symptoms appeared as brown, reddish spots on lower parts of the trees and gradually grew into lesions measuring up to 2cm in length. Twenty-five micrometer sections cut with a hand micro showed that perithecia existed in the infected leaf tissues. The source of primary inoculum was found to be ascospores, which were discharged from perithecia in fallen leaves about mid May. In 1997 and 1998, walnut anthracnose was important disease in the following districts of West Azarbaijan: Kahriz, Anzal, Lakpar, Sardasht, Khoy, Oshnavieh and Mahabad.