

Research Article

Effect of Soil Type on the Survival of *Ceratocystis fimbriata* Ellis & Halst Causing Wilt of Pomegranate

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Abstract

The wilt disease of pomegranate caused by *Ceratocystis fimbriata* is a serious production constraint in Karnataka and Maharashtra states of India. The wilt of pomegranate spreads at an alarming rate in the recent past through the planting material that carry the sick soil. The edaphic factors play an important role in the survival of the pathogen in soil. The effect of soil texture was studied with two different isolates of *C. fimbriata* (CFB and CFSP10). The results revealed that higher the clay content, longer the period of survival of the pathogen. Soil types that have more sand and loam and less clay content did not support the survival of the pathogen. It is suggested that red soil with sandy loam texture can be used to fill the pits for new plantings of pomegranate. Similarly in places where replanting is to be carried out sandy loam soil can be used to fill the pits after the removal of the infected plants.

Key words: *Ceratocystis fimbriata*, pomegranate, soil type, survival in soil, wilt

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