

Both downy mildew and anthracnose of watermelons have been identified in the area recently. Downy mildew of watermelons is characterized by dark, angular lesions on leaves (Figure 1) and does not produce stem lesions. Anthracnose produces dark, rounded lesions with chlorotic (yellow) margins on foliage and the centers of these lesions tend to tear (Figure 2). Dry, spindle-shaped lesions on stems is also associated with anthracnose (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Downy mildew



Figure 2. Anthracnose on foliage



Figure 3. Anthracnose on stems

Control measure at this time are reducing overhead watering, especially at night, and fungicides. Efficacious downy mildew products are Orondis Opti and Ranman. Must mix Ranman with mancozeb or chlorothalonil. Anthracnose fungicides are strobilurins (Quadris, Cabrio, Evito, etc), Proline, and Topsin. Mancozeb and chlorothalonil should be mixed with these as well. Preventive sprays are best. Please contact your local Extension agent for additional details if needed.