

# GLOSSARY

**acervulus:** saucer-shaped fungal fruiting body that produces conidia; a characteristic of the genus *Colletotrichum*. Plural – acervuli.

**anamorph:** the asexual or imperfect state in the life cycle of a fungus in which asexual spores, such as conidia, are produced.

**anastomosis:** the union of fungal hyphae to form a network that allows genetic material to be shared.

**anastomosis group:** isolates or strains with hyphae that are able to fuse and share cellular contents with one another.

**anthracnose:** a plant disease having characteristic depressed spots or lesions on leaves, stems or fruit. Usually caused by fungi that produce asexual spores in an acervulus.

**apothecium:** an open-cup or saucer-shaped fungal structure producing ascospores.

**appressorium:** a structure produced by a germinating fungal spore that adheres to the surface of the host and helps the fungus penetrate the surface cells.

**ascospore:** a spore formed during the sexual stage in the life cycle of certain fungi and carried in a microscopic structure called an ascus.

**asexual reproduction:** reproduction not involving the sex organs or sex cells; a common form of reproduction in fungi and bacteria.

**bacterium:** a single-celled microorganism lacking chlorophyll and capable of extremely rapid reproduction.

**bark:** the plant tissue outside the cambium in vascular plants.

**biovar:** a group of genetically identical individuals within a species.

**blight:** a disease typified by general and rapid death of leaves, flowers or stems.

**blotch:** a disease typified by large, irregular spots or blots on plant parts.

**calyx:** the outer group of leaves surrounding a flower, often small and green-coloured.

**cambium:** a thin layer of actively dividing cells located between the xylem (water-conducting) and phloem (food-conducting) systems in most vascular plants. The cambium is responsible for the growth in the diameter of plants.

**canker:** a dead, often sunken or cracked, area on a stem, twig, limb or trunk and surrounded by healthy tissue.

**chlamydospore:** a thick-walled resting spore of a fungus which allows survival during adverse conditions.

**chlorophyll:** an organic compound giving the green colour to plants and used to make food during photosynthesis.

**chlorosis:** a partial or complete absence of normal green colour from plant parts.

**coalesce:** to run together.

**conidium:** a fungal spore produced during the non-sexual stage of the life cycle.

**corm:** a short, swollen underground stem.

**crown:** a shortened stem growing close to the ground with leaves and axillary buds.

**cyst:** a tough, leathery structure containing a dead female nematode and eggs. Also formed by some fungi and producing motile spores.

**cytoplasm:** all of the cell's living substances except the nucleus and cell wall.

**damping-off:** the rapid death of germinating seed or seedlings before or after emergence.

**detasselling:** the removal of male flowers of sweet corn to prevent self-pollination or inbreeding.

**dieback:** the progressive death of roots, shoots or branches generally starting at the tip.

**epidemic:** a widespread and severe outbreak of an infectious disease.

**epiphyte:** any organism living on plant surfaces without causing infection.

**forma specialis:** abbreviation f.sp. A taxonomic group within a pathogen species defined in terms of host range, i.e. members of different formae speciales infect different groups of plants.

**fruiting body:** a general term for spore-bearing structures of fungi.

**fumigant:** a toxic gas or volatile substance used to control pests in a certain area.

**fungicide:** a chemical compound that kills or inhibits fungi. A protectant fungicide provides a protective chemical barrier over the host surface and prevents initial infection. An eradicant fungicide kills fungal pathogens growing within the host and so has a curative effect. Eradicant fungicides are often absorbed and transported internally within the plant.

**fungus:** a type of organism lacking chlorophyll and having individual strands (hyphae) aggregated into mycelium. Some cause plant diseases.

**gall:** a swelling or outgrowth produced on a plant as a result of attack by pathogens or insects.

**host plant:** a plant that is invaded by a pathogen and from which the pathogen obtains nutrients.