Breadfruit and Breadfruit Diseases in Hawai'i

History, Identification and Management

At a Glance

In this paper, we discuss the need for fungal management in breadfruit, and a holistic approach to control or reduce fungal issues.

This means using many tools, such as moisture management, pruning and spacing, airflow, ground covers, tree health, and, when necessary, biological and chemical controls.

Figure 1. Breadfruit are one of the few staple crops grown on trees. Although a fruit, it is high in complex carbohydrates.

Breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis* Fosberg), or ʻulu in Hawaiian, is a tropical tree in the fig family (Moraceae) that produces large starchy fruit akin to a potato or plantain, depending on the state of maturity.

Breadfruit has served as a staple crop for people in the Pacific for millennia, and during the past two centuries it has been spread to the global tropics and become a prominent local food in many areas. As a long-lived tree that produces a staple food, breadfruit has the potential to dramatically change agricultural practices in tropical regions.

Breadfruit has been named a priority crop for addressing global hunger, rural livelihoods, and environmental degradation associated with agriculture (Lucas and Ragone, 2012; FAO, 2019).

Recent advances in technology (e.g., commercial-scale propagation and value-added products) and efforts in

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propagation and value-added products) and efforts in promotion (e.g., public education and tree giveaways or distributions) have resulted in a substantial increase in awareness and interest in breadfruit, although the crop is still considered underutilized. Underutilized crops typically suffer from a lack of study (Ragone, 1997).

One of the primary issues that growers face, which can be attributed to climate change and an increase in global trade, is the establishment and spread of plant pathogens that reduce the production and quality of breadfruit crops.

Figure 2. Traditionally, breadfruit was grown as part of diversified agroforestrysystems with other Polynesians crops such as yams, taro, and plantains.

History in Pacific

Breadfruit likely originated in Papua New Guinea or the surrounding islands, where the wild ancestor—breadnut (*Artocarpus camansi* Blanco)—is widespread (Zerega et al., 2004, 2006). Cross-pollination with wild breadnut limited the evolution of breadfruit until the crop was transported to nearby islands, such as Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa. In the absence of breadnut, the diversity of breadfruit truly proliferated. Over millennia, Pacific Islanders have developed and named hundreds of cultivars, which are distinguished based on fruiting season, fruit shape, color and texture of the flesh and skin, presence of seeds, flavor cooking qualities, leaf shape (particularly the degree of dissection), tree form, and horticultural needs (Wilder, 1928; Ragone, 1997). There are more than 2,000 cultivars names documented across the Pacific (Ragone and Wiseman, 2007)!

Cultivars change as one moves across the Pacific basin (MacMillan, 1908), with the genetic diversity decreasing from west (Melanesia/southeast Asia) to east (Polynesia) (Zerega et al., 2005). Most interestingly, the further from Papua New Guinea, the lower the average number of seeds in each breadfruit cultivar (Xing et al., 2012). In the Society Islands in the far eastern Pacific, breadfruit cultivars with seeds are so exceptional that the name for the only known seed-producing cultivar is 'Huero' – literally, "with a seed" (Ragone, 2001). A related species of breadfruit — *A. mariannensis* Trécul, known as "dokdok" and "chebiei" — and interspecific hybrids (*A. altilis* × *A. mariannesis*) were traditionally restricted to Micronesia.

History in Hawai'i

A sterile, seedless cultivar of breadfruit was transported to Hawai'i at least 800 years before present, with the earliest archaeological samples dating to the late 1200's (McCoy et al., 2010). Charcoal in fire pits on O'ahu show an increase in the use of breadfruit over time, especially in and after the 15th century (Dye and Sholin, 2013). These and other studies suggest a gradual and relatively late development of breadfruit agroforests in Hawai'i.

Like elsewhere in the Pacific, breadfruit made substantial contributions to food production, security, and resilience in Hawai'i, along with other carbohydrate sources such as kalo (taro), 'uala (sweet potato), uhi (yam) and mai'a (banana/plantain). 'Ulu was third in importance as a staple behind kalo and 'uala (Winter et al., 2018). Breadfruit was seasonally abundant, but unlike elsewhere in the Pacific, the fermentation and storage of breadfruit in underground pits appears to have been rare, while its use as an animal feed appears to have been extensive (Meilleur et al., 2004).

Breadfruit grows well in a range of habitats and cropping systems, including marginal habitats (Mausio et al., 2020). Breadfruit cultivation in Hawai'i took many forms, including individual trees around households and within the agricultural landscapes, as small groves of trees, as highly managed orchards, and as semi-wild food-forests (Handy et al., 1972; Meilleur et al., 2004). Breadfruit was cultivated most everywhere it was warm enough and wet enough (Mausio et al., 2020). In Hawai'i, breadfruit is confined to below about 2,500 ft (760 m) elevation, and if persisting on rainfall requires at least 30 in/y (750 mm/y).

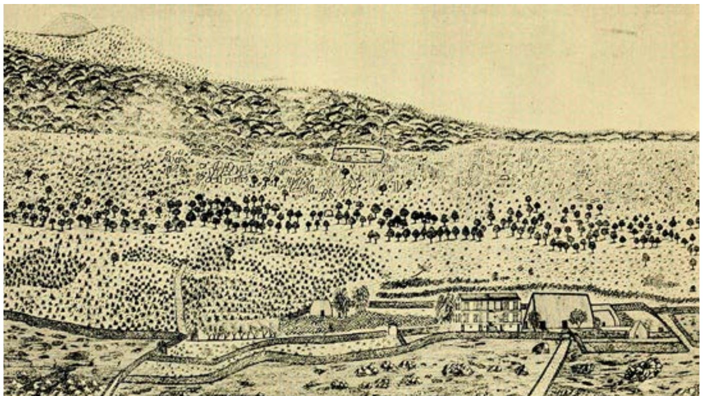

Figure 3. Vast areas of breadfruit cultivation used to exist, such as the famous kalu'ulu breadfruit belt depicted here in Kona, Hawai'i Island, which stretched for 18 miles across the landscape.

Somewhat unique to Hawai'i were extensive breadfruit groves that were often named and associated with specific chiefs (Handy et al., 1972; Meilleur et al., 2004), suggesting they were seen as political capital investments. On Hawai'i Island, explorers in the late 18th century noted the high productivity of tree crops, and the growth of understory crops, in a breadfruit belt termed the kalu'ulu (Kelly, 1983; Lincoln and Ladefoged, 2014).

Breadfruit is associated with prosperity and planning in Hawai'i. The development of tree resources, such as breadfruit, can be seen as investing into the land to develop resources for future prosperity. The seasonal surplus of breadfruit may have powered social dynamics and rituals, such as the emergence of the Makahiki, an extended period where work and certain religious ceremonies were suspended, corresponding to a time of increased recreation and tax collection (Handy et al., 1972; Kirch, 2012). During Makahiki, breadfruit served many ritualistic purposes (Handy et al., 1972) and the occurrence of the festival in October to January corresponds well with the breadfruit season, similar to other Pacific Islands where annual religious and ceremonial occurrences align with the productive periods of breadfruit, yams, and other crops (Kirch, 1975).

The abundance from 'ulu also has an important place in Hawaiian cosmology, associated primarily with the deity Kū, who turned himself into an 'ulu tree to feed his starving wife and children (Handy et al., 1972). Many concepts of Hawaiian traditions and values are captured in a range of 'ōlelo nō'eau (Hawaiian proverbs, sayings, or stories) that utilize 'ulu as a metaphor for wealth, success, and planning. The reoccurring themes associate breadfruit with values of sharing and hospitality, warnings to be kind to travelers, and making sacrifices for the benefit of others (Beckwith, 1940; Pukui, 1983).

Global Spread

Breadfruit was first described in writing by Pedro Fernández de Quirós, following his expedition to the Marquesas Islands in 1595 (De Quiros, 1904; Hedrick, 1972). However, it was first coined as breadfruit by William Dampier in 1686, when he utilized the fruit in Guam and attributed it to saving the lives of his scurvy-ridden crew (Dampier, 1703). Starting in the late 1790's, several expeditions, such as those by British Captain William Bligh and the French explorer La Pérouse, prioritized transporting breadfruit from the Pacific to other European colonies, particularly in the Caribbean (Leakey, 1977; Leakey and Roberts-Nkrumah, 2016). Throughout the 1800s and 1900s, breadfruit was widely distributed to many locations in Central and South America, and various parts of Asia, Australia, and Africa. Of note, the largest distributions of trees have been undertaken since 2009 as part of the Breadfruit Institute's *Global Hunger Initiative* (Lincoln et al., 2018).

Contemporary Breadfruit Industries in Hawai'i

Breadfruit has seen a dramatic rise in production in Hawai'i, growing rapidly from fewer than 500 trees in commercial plantings 25 years ago, to more than 8,000 trees today (Langston and Lincoln, 2018). Fresh fruit is typically available in season at farmers markets and some grocery stores. Numerous processed products are made from 'ulu, including baked goods, hummus, chocolate mousse, baby foods, chips, flour, and pickles. At the wholesale level, the fruit is sold as minimally processed (par-steamed and frozen). Although breadfruit is gaining in popularity, most people still only eat breadfruit less than three times per year, and most people access it through friends and family, as opposed to commercial markets (Needham and Lincoln, 2019).

A negligible amount of breadfruit is currently exported from the state as minimally processed or value-added products. Fresh fruit cannot be exported from Hawai'i to the U.S. mainland, due to U.S. Department of Agriculture restrictions on the movement of fresh fruits, including breadfruit, to prevent introduction of quarantine pests, such as fruit flies. Certified treatment, inspection, and facilities are required for interstate movement (Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 88).

Breadfruit Diseases - History

Traditionally, reports of breadfruit disease appear extremely rarely in oral histories and stories. Management of disease in the past was primarily through destroying the tree and burning the area to purify it (Lawrence, 1964; McKenzie, 1964).

In the early 1960s, a disease in breadfruit was first reported and recorded on Pingelap atoll, later known as "Pingelap Disease." Ten years later, it was widespread in Samoa, French Polynesia, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and Guam. The disease carried a high mortality rate, and on some islands, ~95% of all breadfruit trees died. The alarming losses of breadfruit trees in the Pacific basin spurred a three-year study of breadfruit disease and decline in the Pacific. Resulting from this study, Trujillo (1971) documented three pathogens: a fruit rot pathogen, a stem rot pathogen, and a leaf pathogen – but ultimately attributed the Pacific-wide decline in breadfruit not to disease but rather, "a complex of environmental factors, coupled with minor root pathogens."

Other staggering losses have occurred since, indicating that Pingelap Disease is not an isolated occurrence. Between 1958 and 1987, a serious disease killed all but 46,000 of the estimated two million breadfruit trees in Jamaica (Coates-Beckford and Pereira, 1992). In Kiribati in 2000, fruit rot from *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* reduced yields of 'Bukiraro' by 70% (Redfern, 2007). More recently, another breadfruit disease epidemic occurred in the Northern Pacific between 1990 and 2000 causing various symptoms, including trunk canker, dieback, fruit rot, and death of trees. Although fungal pathogens were isolated from diseased trees and fruits — including *C. gloeosporioides, Diplodia theobromae, Fusarium solani* and *Rhizopus* sp. — they were regarded as secondary pathogens (Ploetz, 2003). With increased globalization and mobility within breadfruit growing regions, an increasing number of severe diseases have been documented for breadfruit.

Based on previous and recent reports of breadfruit disease, it is clear that the underlying cause of frequent epidemics of breadfruit diseases is lack of management, which is exacerbated during unfavorable environmental conditions (Ploetz, 2003).

Types of Diseases

In general, diseases of breadfruit in Hawai'i are not rampant and most trees are healthy. However, under certain conditions, outbreaks can and have occurred. Widespread *Phytophthora* in Waiahole Valley, O'ahu, in 2017 killed dozens of trees, caused significant die-back in others, and resulted in extensive fruit losses throughout the valley for a several-year period. Within large plantings, low incidence of disease is typical, suggesting the pathogens are present and can flare up should conditions become favorable for those pathogens.

We consider breadfruit diseases in three major classes: leaf, fruit, and stem/root. Leaf diseases are the most prevalent and can be found at any given time. While not particularly impactful on tree vitality, we suggest that leaf diseases serve as useful indicators of how well fungal pathogens are controlled in an area. Fruit disease is the second most prevalent, with varying degrees of impact on fruit quality and usability. Twig and root rot are the least common but also the most impactful, associated with dieback, drastic reductions in productivity, and tree mortality (Redfern, 2010; Lincoln et al., in prep). *Colletotrichum* and *Phytophthora* are the most prevalent pathogen on fruit, *Phoma* on leaves, and *Fusarium* and *Lasiodiplodia* in branches. Phoma and Fusarium are prevalent and demonstrated potential to cause significant impacts; however, Phytophthora is considered the most important pathogen.

Note: pathogenicity for many of the agents presented here have not been fully confirmed for breadfruit. In most cases, pathogenicity is assumed if 1) a potential causal pathogen has been consistently isolated from the disease symptoms and 2) the potential pathogen is known to cause similar symptoms in other crops. For this publication, pathogens are considered "associated" with the symptoms, unless otherwise stated.

Leaf Diseases

Leaf pathogens, considered quite common, contribute to an important group of diseases of breadfruit. We consider leaf diseases in four categories: leaf spots, leaf anthracnose, algal leaf spots, and leaf rust.

Leaf Spots

Multiple pathogens have been isolated from leaf spots that vary in size, shape, color, and density. *Corynespora cassiicola* has been shown to cause irregular spots on breadfruit leaves and, less often, on the stems, roots and flowers in the south Pacific (Dingley et al., 1981; Macfarlane, 1997). The lesions are up to 2 cm in diameter and often have an undulate border, which displays a zonate pattern that darkens with age. Shot holes and defoliation may occur.

In Hawai'i, *Alternaria* sp. are associated with small dark-brown lesions with a chlorotic margin. *Fusarium* sp. are associated with larger, more amorphous dark brown spots. *Lasiodiploidia* and *Macrophoma* are both associated with small black spots. *Phoma* sp. have been isolated from very small, dispersed dark-brown spots with rust-colored margins. *Phyllosticta* sp. form small, dark-brown spots. Leaf spots are found on virtually all breadfruit trees in Hawai'i, with varying degrees of severity. However, losses in productivity from these leaf diseases do not appear to be significant.

Figure 4 (a, b, c). We categorize leaf diseases as (a) leaf spots, which are typically small, isolated lesions; (b) leaf anthracnose, in which patches of leaf decay can occur; and (c) algal spots and leaf rust, which are often raised protrusions on the leaf.

Leaf Anthracnose

Leaf anthracnose, shown to be caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* in Hawai'i and elsewhere, may initially resemble other leaf spots but rapidly changes in appearance. This disease can significantly reduce the canopy when infection levels are high. Symptoms usually start as reddish-brown colored spots, which grow to dark-brown spots with reddish-brown margins that expand gradually, eventually forming a gray center with the margins remaining dark brown.

The spots increase in number and size as the leaf expands, with larger leaves having more prominent leaf spots than younger leaves; in bad cases, spots can coalesce to cause blighting of young leaves (Trujillo, 1971). Concentric rings of acervuli (fungal growth) may be visible (Gerlach, 1988; Ploetz, 2003).

This disease is more severe in areas with high rainfall and under shady conditions. Splashing raindrops effectively spread spores to young leaves, and new infections are initiated. Shady conditions provide optimal growth conditions and softer leaves allow multiplication of *Colletotrichum*, resulting in severe infection in shaded fields in contrast to trees grown in full sun.

Anthracnose causes premature defoliation and, when severe, can significantly reduce the canopy of the tree, which decreases fruit production. Leaf anthracnose is uncommon in Hawai'i.

Rust and Algae Spots

Rust and algal leaf spot are common leaf diseases. Rust is caused by *Uredo artocarpi* and is characterized by prominent russeting formed by small, irregular leaf spots on both surfaces of the leaf. The spots are composed of uredinia (reddish, swollen plant tissue) and these may be discrete or merge to produce the conspicuous russeting. *Uredo artocarpi* has been reported from Hawai'i Island and Puerto Rico (Gardener, 1997; Parrotta, 1994).

Algal leaf spot is caused by *Cephaleuros virescens*, with the algae forming orange, velvety spots on the upper surface of leaves. This semi-parasitic alga is extremely common in Hawai'i, and it is rare to see a tree in any habitat devoid of the orange spots. Overall, rust and algae, although very common, do not seem to impact the health of the trees.

Fruit Diseases

Fruit diseases are the best-documented category for breadfruit. We further categorize fruit diseases as: fruit spots, fruit anthracnose, soft rot, and fruit rot.

Fruit Spots

Various small fruit spots have been reported for breadfruit. Spotting can enlarge and merge to cover much of the fruit. High prevalence of fruit spots can be unsightly but is typically superficial and has no or minimal effect on fruit quality. In Hawai'i, Fusarium is most often isolated from fruit spots that are light brown. Spots start as small, isolated spots that can grow quickly to merge and cause solid brown discoloration. *Phoma* spp. are also commonly isolated from the fruit spots, forming darker brown, almost black spots that tend to remain separated from each other. Neither has been confirmed as the casual pathogen. Fruit spotting is generally not problematic, but excessive spotting is unsightly, and heavy infestations can impact fruit quality.

Fruit Anthracnose

Fruit anthracnose is known to be caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Ploetz, 2003). Symptoms of fruit anthracnose are large, dark-brown spots that develop on the epidermal layer and expand gradually to form larger lesions. The flesh typically hardens around the lesion, often causing deformation of the fruit, although this hardening may be the result of secondary pathogens moving in. On immature breadfruit, anthracnose may

Figure 5 (a, b, c, d). We categorize fruit as (a) fruit spots, which are typically small, isolated lesions; (b) fruit anthracnose, in which large occur; (c) soft rot, in which the flesh quality deteriorates; and (d) fruit rot, in which the skin and flesh of the fruit are degraded.

develop in association with injuries that are caused by insects (Trujillo, 1971; Ploetz, 2003). The symptoms are common and widespread in Hawaiʻi. In most orchards, at any given time, a fruit with anthracnose symptoms can typically be found, although the prevalence is variably expressed from year to year, ranging from sporadic to common.

Although *Colletotrichum* is most visibly and commonly associated with fruit anthracnose, it is also associated with leaf spots, leaf anthracnose, and stem rot (Zakaria, 2021). It has been suggested that C. *acutatum* may cause premature fruit fall of breadfruit, but this is unconfirmed (McKenzie and Jackson, 1990). *Colletotrichum* is spread by water, rain and wind, and high relative humidity and temperature encourage disease development.

Soft Rot

In Hawaiʻi, *Rhizopus* is associated with a soft, watery rot of mature fruit. It can be severe on ripening fruit on the tree and is also considered a post-harvest disease that develops on wounds during storage or shipment (Trujillo, 1971). *Geotrichum* is also associated in Hawaiʻi with soft rot. Symptoms often include small external lesions that soften and can cause rapid internal rot of the breadfruit flesh. *Lasiodiplodia* was isolated from internal soft rot that demonstrated little or no external symptoms and appeared to emanate from the fruit core.

Other pathogens have been reported on necrotic, rotted fruit or premature fruits (see Ploetz, 2003, and Brooks, 2006), but no pathogenicity studies have been conducted with these pathogens. Soft rot is not common in Hawaiʻi, but a handful of symptomatic fruit are invariably seen each year. Soft rot appears to most often originate from the core of the fruit.

Fruit Rot

Fruit rot is attributed to *Phytophthora palmivora* and *P. tropicalis* in studies from Hawaiʻi and elsewhere. Symptoms include the development of small lesions on the fruit, which grow in size until the infection consumes the fruit. The advancing front of infection has a characteristic white band that forms a ring around the entire lesion. Symptoms are most often observed under wet and humid conditions, as well as areas with poor soil drainage. Rotted fruit tissue falls to the soil where the infection cycle is renewed.

Multiple pathogenicity tests confirm the virulence (Trujillo, 1970; Gerlach and Salevao, 1984; Redfern, 2010). The pathogen takes 2-3 days for the first visible symptoms to occur after infection. Fruits from varieties with rough skin were more susceptible than fruits from smooth-skinned varieties. 'Puou' was found as the most susceptible cultivar in the field, whereas 'Aveloloa,' 'Maʻafala,' 'Maopo,' and 'Uluea' cultivars were more resistant.

In a recent study in Hawaiʻi, the susceptibility of 'Puou' was confirmed, along with 'Fiti,' while 'Otea' and 'Maʻafala' were more resistant. Maturity of fruits was found to affect susceptibility, with very young fruits being largely immune, intermediate fruits were slightly resistant, and mature green fruits were highly susceptible. *Phytophthora palmivora* has been documented to grow best at temperatures ranging from 28-32oC (Rao, 1970). Severe cases of *Phytophthora* fruit rot can lead to branch dieback, defoliation, and tree death.

Stem and Root Diseases

Stem and root diseases can cause severe damage and death to trees. We consider three categories: seedling dieback, crown and root rot, and stem rot.

Seedling Dieback

Seedling blight associated with Sclerotium rolfsii and the loss of seedlings and young trees caused by Rosellinia sp. have been reported from Puerto Rico (Parrota, 1994) and Trinidad (Morton, 1987); however, no symptomology or progression of these diseases were described. Dieback is generally characterized by wilting, yellowing, and necrosis of the leaves; premature defoliation; and branch dieback (Trujillo, 1971). Such dieback has been witnessed in Hawaiʻi, usually associated with multiple, simultaneous stressors to the trees.

Crown and Root Rot

Brown root rot disease, one of the most serious breadfruit diseases in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, is caused by a basidiomycete fungus, *Phellinus noxius*, causing tree decline and death (McKenzie, 1996). The fungus is well known as a major disease of timber trees, and its introduction to the Pacific region is believed to have been through infected timber that was imported to the islands (E. Trujillo, pers. comm.).

The name brown root rot refers to a brown-to-black mycelial crust formed by this fungus on the surface of infected roots and stem bases (Chang and Yang, 1998). Trees were considered infected by *P. noxius* if two or more of the following signs were present.

On most trees, thick mycelial crust enveloped the infected roots and the base of the stem up to 2 m (Bolland, 1984; Hodges and Tenorio, 1984; Ivory, 1990). *Phellinus noxius* infects the base of the tree then moves to the root, and may persist in roots and stumps of infected plants for more than 10 years after the death of the host (Chang, 1996).

As roots become infected, symptoms of wilting, yellowing, and necrosis of leaves occur. Branch dieback and tree death will eventually result (Trujillo, 1971; Gerlach, 1988). Fine mats of mycelium present between infected bark and sapwood, and the underlying colonized heartwood eventually becomes white, spongy, dry, and honeycombed with reddish-brown or dark lines (Singh et al., 1980). The disease develops most rapidly during the hot, rainy season and is spread by root contact, not basidiospores. This devastating disease has not yet been reported in Hawai'i.

Another causal agent reported to cause collar rot is *Lasiodiplodia theobromae (Botryodiplodia theobromae*), which has been reported from the islands of Wallis and Futuna (Kohler et al., 1997). The collar and trunk have dry rot symptoms, which are associated with external white strands of the fungus. The wood beneath the bark has white patches with dark-brown margins. Pathogenicity tests are needed. Trunk canker is characterized by sunken, brown, and dry rot areas on the bark, with the infection expanding 2-3 cm deep into the wood.

Root pathogens recovered from diseased and dying trees include *Rhizoctonia solani*, which is consistently associated with feeder root dieback, and *Pythium* sp., associated with brown rot of lateral roots (Trujillo, 1971). *Fomes* sp. causes death of breadfruit trees and was reported from Ebon Island in the Southern Marshall Islands and Brazil (Trujillo, 1971; Parrotta, 1994). This pathogen rots larger roots and causes soft heart rot of the tree (Trujillo, 1971). *Polyporus zonalis* is a pathogen identified in Brazil associated with heart rot (Parrotta, 1994).

Stem Rot

Small branches and stems may be infected, leading to dieback of branches. Such infections are often associated with *Fusarium* spp. In general, the *Fusarium* family invades the vascular system of its host and proceeds to disrupt the translocation of water and nutrients, leading to symptoms such as browning and the development of head blight. Internal twigs will have black or dark-brown streaks, and the twig surface may deform or crack. In Hawai'i, Fusarium

Figure 6 (a, b, c). Stem and root diseases are moderately common in Hawai'i, most often associated with (a) branch weakening, tapering, or die back; (b) internal rot; and (c) overall decline in tree growth and health.

was consistently isolated from a number of branches with declining health. *Phoma* sp. have also been isolated from twig rot, with light brown/reddish streaks. Anthracnose, severe twig disease, and defoliation can develop on breadfruit, but the causal agents are unknown (Abraham et al., 1988). Bacterial dieback, caused by *Erwinia carotovora*, has been recorded on chempedak (Agrolink, 1999), where it causes leaf yellowing and gummy exudate from stems and branches.

Disease Management

For most of the pathogens identified for breadfruit, it is not possible to entirely eradicate the disease, but by using an integrated pathogen management approach, the impacts can be minimized. Once established, the disease agents continue to cycle through crops until the infection cycle is broken. Here we summarize a range of 'best practices' that can help to mitigate diseases in general, in addition to specific treatments for individual pathogens.

General Hygiene

Crops need to grow in areas with proper drainage. An abundance of moisture increases the risk of *Phytophthora* epidemics. Clean water sources are needed, while avoiding irrigation that wets the trunk or leaves. Any plants with severe disease should be destroyed and removed from the site or sterilized, typically through burning. Caution and preemptive measures should be taken with plants that neighbor the sick plant. All material brought to the site should be as clean as possible, particularly if bringing in organic material. In particular, importing foreign plant material may introduce new pathogens to a region, and all appropriate bio-security laws must be followed. Adhering to phytosanitary practices when visiting or having visitors can reduce the local transmission of diseases. Sterilization of equipment and tools can also help prevent the spread of disease. Treatments with flame heat, 70% alcohol, or freshly prepared 10% bleach are all effective at eliminating most pathogens (Rutala and Weber, 2008).

Trees should have good airflow and not be in excessively shaded areas. The area should be well drained without excessive moisture. Orchards should be regularly monitored for diseases, with appropriate responses taken. Often, the lowest fruits on a tree are infected first and the topmost last, likely due to increased moisture and poor airflow in the lower canopy (Gerlach and Salevao, 1984). At harvest, fruit should not come in contact with soil. Any adhering organic debris should be cleaned from fruit, prior to packing. Skin damage and the use of dirty wash water should be avoided. Fruit should not be packed with organic materials such as plant leaves, coconut fibre, or wood shavings, as these materials could damage the skin and allow infection to spread directly from the organic materials into fruit (R. Paull, pers. comm.)

Varieties

Varieties have exhibited varying degrees of susceptibility for each disease, although few systematic studies have been conducted. Early documentation of *Phytophthora palmivora* in Western Samoa showed that only 'Puou' was susceptible (Gerlach and Salevao, 1984) and that, in general, fruits with rough skin are more susceptible than smooth-skinned cultivars (Trujillo, 1971). In Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, rough-skinned cultivars were reportedly more susceptible than smooth-skinned types, however, one smooth-skinned cultivar became more susceptible as the season progressed (Fownes and Raynor, 1993).

Figure 7. Different breadfruit varieties, pictured with Artocarpus camansi and A. odoratissima, exhibit a range of skin textures associated with more or less susceptibility to Phytophthora and other diseases.

In Hawai'i, the smooth-skinned variety 'Fiti' and rougher 'Puou' were both highly susceptible, with 'Otea' and 'Ma'afala' more resistant. Dieback associated with the Pingelap disease showed that susceptible cultivars such as 'Bukrol' often died, while hybrid cultivars (*A. altilis x A. marianennsis*) normally recovered (Trujillo, 1971).

Pruning and Removal of Infected Material

Pruning diseased parts to remove inoculum reduces the incidence and severity of a number of diseases including anthracnose and *Phytophthora*. Opening the canopy increases ventilation and reduces humidity, reducing the habitat for many fungal and bacterial pathogens. Painting pruning wounds with proprietary wound sealants, *Trichoderma* preparations, or even house paint may also reduce the risk of infection, although opinions on this approach differ with many arborists – suggesting that painting is unnecessary or even potentially harmful. Removal and destruction of diseased fruit from trees and the ground reduces the risk and severity of outbreaks.

Occasionally, trees can be cured if the diseased parts are removed immediately after symptoms appear. Even for the brown root rot disease, tree-to-tree spread has been prevented by removing diseased trees and roots more than 1 inch (Kohler et al., 1997). Removal and burning of infected trees and other debris may also reduce disease spread and help to sterilize the soil (J. Friday, pers. comm.).

Groundcover

The use of vegetative ground cover, especially nitrogen-fixing species, has been somewhat successful in reducing incidence of *Fusarium* by about 20% (Pattison et al., 2014). It was also suggested that the use of leaf litter mulch might decrease the chance of *Phytophthora* infection, as it promotes parasitism of the pathogen, as well as acting as a rain splash barrier (Konam and Guest, 2002). Planting herbaceous crops with vigorous roots, such as grasses, will increase the breakdown of woody debris in the soil that may harbor the fungus.

Soil and Water Management

Maintaining healthy soil and water could reduce the incidence of many pathogens. Maintaining soil nutrition ensures that the trees are well nourished and can more effectively fend off opportunistic diseases. A clean water source reduces the introduction of potential pathogens. A healthy soil supports diverse microbial communities, including species that prey on plant pathogens. In particular, maintaining high soil organic matter can help to promote the physical and chemical environments of a healthy biome and reduce pathogen outbreaks (Larkin, 2015). Physical management of the soil, such as appropriate aeration and maintaining good drainage, could reduce prevalence of many fungal pathogens, as well as strengthen the root system of the plant.

Physical Management

Few physical management practices for breadfruit have been employed. Other than pruning infected areas, the surface of some stem cankers are scaped to expose the lesions and dry them out, similar to picking a scab. The exposed lesions could also be painted with a fungicide to prevent further spread of infection. Bagging is a practice of using bags to cover or protect fruits from pests and diseases, and is widely utilized in southeast Asia, including on breadfruit (R. Paull, pers. comm.). When multiple fruit are clustered together, it is recommended that the other fruit should be removed to avoid fruit skin damage and allow less competition for nutrients. Fruit thinning is associated with the reduced spread of some diseases (Ingels, 2001).

Biological Management

Bio-fertilizers, including *Bacillus* or *Trichoderma*, have been shown to reduce the incidence of Fusarium diseases. While the researchers did not believe that Bacillus or Trichoderma were directly responsible for the reduction in disease, they believed the presence of one of these organisms did stimulate a healthier soil microbiome (Xiong et al., 2017).

The application of plant extracts on bananas tested with *Colletotrichum musae* has also shown progress in reducing disease symptoms, as well as extending its shelf life (Bazie et al., 2014). Several plant extracts proved effective in pathogen inhibition, such as *Solanum torvum, Jatropha curcas,* and *Emblica officinalis*. Of these extracts, S. torvum was the most effective and was able to completely arrest the development of mycelial masses (Torres et al., 2016).

In American Samoa, it is believed a member of the lily family, lau talo talo (*Crinum* sp.), planted next to a tree, will protect it from *Phellinus noxius* (Brooks, 2001), but this has not been tested scientifically. The application of neem cake fertilizer after the main harvest season is another practice that has been suggested to be effective (N. Dickinson, pers. comm.).

Chemical Management

Strategic sprays with mancozeb could reduce losses due to anthracnose (Sirayoi, 1993). The application of copper fungicides or dithiocarbamates to flowers and young fruit have reduced losses from Phytophthora in jackfruit and breadfruit (Almeida and de Landim, 1980; Singh and Singh, 1989). The use of potassium phosphonate fungicide has shown increased defense responses of crops against *P. palmivora* infection, and some farmers advocate for the application of phosphoric acid as a foliar spray. These heightened defenses reduced invasive sporangia (Daniel et al., 2005). The biopesticide *Tetramycin* was also shown to inhibit *P. capsici* invasion by reducing mycelial growth and sporulation (Ma et al., 2018).

The use of *Trichoderma martiale* strain ALF 247 proved to be an effective biological control agent of P. palmivora.

Cacao plants treated with this biological control showed a reduction in symptoms of blackpod disease (Hanada et al., 2009). For best results, ALF 247 was applied in combination with copper-based fungicides. *Colletotrichum gloesporioides* was documented as being highly sensitive to the application of benomyl. However, caution should be exercised when using benomyl, as other species of *Colletotrichum*, including *C. acutatum*, were only somewhat sensitive to this treatment (Freeman et al., 1998). This means that if benomyl was used when multiple *Colletotrichum* species were present, a shift to benomyl-resistant species of *Colletotrichum* could occur (Uchida and Kadooka, 1997).

Please Note: it is important to monitor pathogen sensitivity to applications, as the development of resistance is possible. It has been recommended that if growers do choose to use fungicides, they should be used solely as a preventative measure and not as a cure. In addition, the label is the law. Read and follow product labels for all pesticides.

Holistic Approach

For general best practices, it is best to have a holistic approach to control or reduce fungal issues. A holistic approach means good management by improving moisture management, pruning and good spacing, good airflow through canopy, having ground cover, good hygiene, and good tree nutrition first and foremost, with application of more detailed methods if needed.

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Figure 8. A healthy orchard of ʻulu trees.

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Appendix 1: Common Breadfruit Diseases and Symptoms in Hawaiʻi

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Alternaria	Low	Leaf spots	Small dark spots with yellowish margin
	Type		
	Fungi		

Management Strategies

Avoid excess moisture; increase drainage; recommend wider tree spacing, active pruning, and good air circulation

Photo Credit: Noa Lincoln

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Cephaleuros virescens	Low	Algal growth	Orange growth superficial to the leaf
	Type		
	Green Algae		

Management Strategies

Maintain good tree health

Photo Credit: pestnet.org

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Colletotrichum gloeosporioides	High	Leaf anthracnose	Rust colored spots that expand to have gray center; can blight
Telemorph	**Type**	Stem anthracnose	Darkening of petioles and stems, reduced vigor or dieback of stems
Glomerella cingulata	Fungi	Fruit anthracnose	Dark brown spots on skin that expand to large, hard lesion

Management Strategies

Maintain good tree health

Photo Credit: Takena Redfern

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Fusarium	High	Leaf spots	Amorphous dark brown spots
		Twig and root rot	Browning, black or brown streaking, deformation or cracking
Species	**Type**		
F. equiseti, solani, and *pallidoroseum*	Fungi	Fruit spots	Small, isolated light-brown spots that can merge to cause solid discoloration

Management Strategies

Use vegetative ground cover, use of bio-fertilizers including *Bacillus* bacteria or *Trichoderma* fungus

Photo Credit: Abigail Jones

Appendix 1: Common Breadfruit Diseases and Symptoms in Hawaiʻi

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Geotrichum	Moderate **Type** Fungi	Fruit soft rot	Small lesions that soften and rapid internal rotting of fruit

Management Strategies

Remove infected fruit from site; improve airflow to trees

Photo Credit: Abigail Jones

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Lasiodiplodia theobromae	Moderate **Type** Fungi	Truck and collar rot Leaf spots Fruit soft rot	Stem dieback often starting with older growth Small black spots External browning associated with internal sort rot

Management Strategies

Remove infected fruit or branches from site; external application of fungicide

Photo Credit: Takena Redfern

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Macrophoma	Low **Type** Fungi	Leaf spots	Small black spots

Management Strategies

Pruning, thinning; improved airflow to leaves

Photo Credit: Takena Redfern

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Pestalotiopsis	Low **Type** Fungi	Leaf Spots	Stem dieback starting at growing tips

Management Strategies

Application of fungicides to prevent spread

Photo Credit: Takena Redfern

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Phoma	Moderate **Type** Fungi	Leaf spots Twig rot Fruit spots	Small, dispersed dark brown spots with rust colored margins Light brown/reddish streaks Small, dark brown/black spots

Management Strategies

Pruning, removal of infected areas, application of fungicides

Photo Credit: usu.edu and Abigail Jones

Appendix 1: Common Breadfruit Diseases and Symptoms in Hawai‘i

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Phytophthora	High	Twig, branch, and tree dieback	General decline of vigor, withering, and dieback of branches and roots
Species *P. palmivora* and *P. tropicalis*	**Type** Oomycetes	Fruit rot and mummificatio	Round lesions with characteristic white ring at growing front

Photo Credit: Takena Redfern

Management Strategies

Clean water sources needed; reduce humidity; avoid wetting trunk or leaves; remove dead leaves and branches; use of leaf litter; application of copper fungicides or dithiocarbanates; application of Bordeaux mixture

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Rhizopus artocarpi	Moderate **Type** Fungi	Soft fruit rot	Stem dieback starting at growing tips

Photo Credit: Abigail Jones

Management Strategies

Removed infected fruits; application of Bordeaux mixture

Causal Agent	Threat	Symptom	Description
Uredo artocarpus	Low **Type** Fungi	Leaf rust	Rust colored spots

Photo Credit: Noa Lincoln

Management Strategies

Maintain good tree health