**Background** Husk rot is a fungal disease of the pericarp. The disease is becoming more important in South African macadamia orchards and could significantly reduce yield if not controlled effectively. There is uncertainty regarding the causal agents of husk rot, with multiple genera frequently isolated from diseased nuts. However, both Diaporthe species (Phomopsis husk rot) and Colletotrichum species (Anthracnose husk rot) have been identified as pathogenic to macadamia pericarps. Different species, however, differ in their ability to cause disease, both in terms of incidence and severity. These genera can occur separately or simultaneously on diseased tissue. A recent study suggested that macadamia nuts in the earlier stages of development, such as match-head and pea size, are more susceptible to natural infection than 50% expanded or mature nuts. All of the above should be taken into consideration when implementing management options.

**Pathogen type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fungus</th>
<th>Anthracnose husk rot</th>
<th>Phomopsis husk rot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Colletotrichum</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Diaporthe</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Symptoms**

- Soft and spongy black lesions on pericarp
- Premature nut drop
- Internal discoloration
- Shorter shelf life

**Treatment**

- Insect control in orchards
- Removal of infected tissue
- Application of fungicides

**Registered product**

- Bellis

**Disease** Husks are usually infected during prolonged (2-5 days) wet weather conditions with air temperatures above 15°C. It is hypothesized that the most common mode of infection is through wounds caused by insect damage and/or mechanical damage such as wind rub. Infection can occur during nut development and remain latent or dormant until disease development is triggered by stress.