

Descriptions of Molds

Alternaria Tenius- (air-borne) This is an outdoor mold, which frequently grows in textiles, foodstuffs, and soils. The black spots seen on tomatoes are usually of the alternaria mold species. Frequently found on condensed window frames; generally an outdoors mold and appears when the weather is warm.

Aspergillus- This mold thrives best in oxygen-rich environments. One common place you might find this mold is in compost or on fallen leaves. It grows well on all decaying vegetation. It often grows on still living plants and trees, and foods with starch such as potatoes and bread. This mold can often be found growing inside buildings or homes in dirty air conditioners. It grows well on building materials and so it might often grow on or inside walls in the home, particularly if the house is damp or has been damaged by flooding.

Cephalosporium- It is a mold found in decomposing vegetation, and it is a soil inhabitant. It is also found in dust from textile plants, soil when gardening, bathrooms, and damp old houses.

Fusarium- This mold is common soil fungus and is widely found on numerous grasses and other plants. It can cause plant diseases and is a major parasite of rice, sugar cane, sorghum and especially maize grains. Occurs regularly on banana roots and other fruits and vegetables, e.g., tomato and watermelon. Sporulates in warm, wet weather.

Helminthosporium-This mold occurs seasonally and spores are released on dry, hot days. It is a parasite of cereals and grasses. Frequently found on grains, grasses, sugar cane, soil and textiles.

Hormonodendrum-Of all the molds encountered in the air, this is the most frequent. It is found most commonly on dying and dead plant substrates, especially on leaves and stems of ferns, mosses, and desert and aquatic plants. It is found in various soil types and on food items such as cereals, cucumbers, tomatoes, and peaches. A moist environment is most suitable for this mold. Found throughout the year and indoors.

Penicillium-This mold is one of the most dominant and important household molds; this indoor mold can readily be seen on stale bread, citrus fruits, and apples. It has a fruity odor, suggesting apples or pineapples.