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Mold Descriptions

Alternaria- is a common mold found in soil, food stuffs, and textiles. This mold is a known habitant of soils, corn silage, rotten wood, composts, bird nests, and various forest plants. Black spots on tomatoes may be caused by Alternaria. It is frequently found in window frames.

Aspergillus- is a thermo-tolerant fungus. It is found in soils, leaf and plant liter, decaying vegetation and roots, bird droppings, tobacco, and stored sweet potatoes. It grows in a wide range of temperatures.

Cladosporium- is one of the most common molds encountered. The dry canidia are carried easily through the air. It is one of the most common colonizers of dying and dead plants, and also occurs in various soil types, and on food. This mold is frequently found in unclean refrigerators, food stuffs, on moist window frames, in houses with poor ventilation, with straw roofs, and situated in low, damp areas. It has been isolated from fuel tanks, face creams, paints, and textiles.

Fusarium- is widely distributed in grass and other plants and is common soil fungus. It often causes plant disease and is a major parasite of rice, sugar cane, and sorghum, and is especially common on maize grains. It occurs regularly on banana roots, and other fruits and vegetables, tomatoes, and watermelons. It sporulates in warm, wet weather.

Helminsporium- almost always occurs seasonally and the spores are released on dry, hot days. Frequently isolated from grains, grasses, sugar case, soil and textiles.

Mucor- mold is primarily a soil fungus, but has been found elsewhere such as in horse manure, plant remains, grains, vegetables, and nuts. Mucor is also the dominating mold found in floor dust in houses, and is considered an in door mold.

Penicillium- widely distributed in soils, occurring in the temperate zones in forests and grasslands. It can be isolated from decaying vegetable and leaf litter. It is also found on stored cereals and hay. It is also considered an important indoor mold. It is the blue-green mold found on stale bread, fruits, and nuts, and used for production of green and blue mold cheeses. It reaches peak concentrations in the winter and spring.