

Diseases in the Useful Plants Cultivated in Polyculture Systems

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The polyculture systems, using various plant species, can be alternative to traditional cultivation methods in the Amazon. The dispersion of species in polyculture systems will probably reduce the intensity of diseases, because non-host plants serve as a barrier to the spread of pathogens and create favorable conditions to attract the natural enemies. The following pathogens occurred: *Crinipellis pernicioso* and *Corticium salmonicolor* on cupuaçu, *Phytophthora* sp., *Septobasidium pseudopediculatum*, *S. sacardium* and *C. salmonicolor* on orange trees, *Corticium penicillatum* on coconut trees and a disease yet not described on Brazil nut trees. *C. pernicioso* has been controlled by periodic pruning and *Phytophthora* sp. by preventive painting of the trunk with copper-based fungicides in the dry season. The other diseases were controlled by remotion of affected parts. Fungicides have been used as little as possible. Until now there was no difference in the intensities of diseases between polyculture systems and monoculture systems, but the intensities of diseases were much lower compared to farmland in the region.

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