

Apple Scab

Tree Fruit

Pest
Fact
Sheet **31**

Introduction

Apple Scab is a fungus disease that occurs wherever apples are grown. It is most severe in areas where the climate is cool and moist; thus, New Hampshire is an area particularly vulnerable to Apple Scab. It is more of a problem today than 50 years ago because of the increased production of highly susceptible varieties of apples (such as McIntosh) and the subsequent build-up of the Apple Scab pathogen. Apple Scab is a significant, economic disease of apples which reduces the size and quality of the infected fruit and reduces the length of time the fruit can remain in storage.

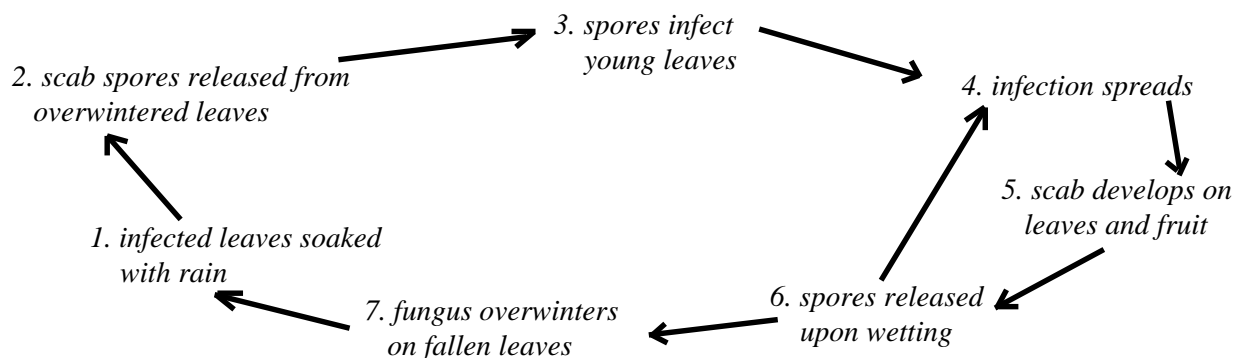


Description of Apple Scab

The symptoms appear on both leaves and fruit. Lesions on the leaf first appear as olive-colored irregular spots that later become larger and velvety as the leaf develops. The number of lesions per leaf varies with the severity of the infection. They may remain distinct or may coalesce. After severe early infection the leaves may curl and fall prematurely.

Infections of the fruit appear as distinct, almost circular scab lesions at first velvety and olive-green but later become darker, scabby, and sometimes cracked. Severe early infection of fruit results in deformed, cracked fruit which may drop prematurely. Late infections may develop into dark scab spots during storage. Multiple infections occur throughout each season.

Life Cycle



Control

Cultural: Rake and destroy all leaves in the fall (or chop leaves with a mower). Use resistant varieties (Redfree, Prima, Liberty, Freedom, Jonafree, Macfree, or Sir Prize). Apply protectant fungicide sprays at green tip (when first susceptible tissue emerges from the bud), half-inch green, tight cluster, pink, bloom, and petal fall to protect developing leaves, flowers, and fruit from infection during this critical part of the growing season. The interval between these spray is generally 3-8 days, depending on the rainfall and the rate of growth. Cover sprays during the summer will only be necessary if scab control was inadequate during the primary scab season.

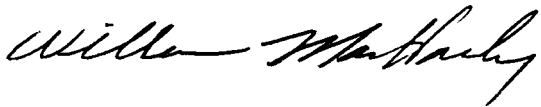
Homeowners: may apply Captan, mancozeb, Ferbam or Thiram.

Commercial: should refer to the current Apple Spray Guide for chemical recommendations, rates, and timing.

Summary

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| 1. Causal Agent: | Fungus |
| 2. Plant Parts Attacked: | Foliage and fruit |
| 3. Major Symptoms: | Scab lesions on foliage and fruit |
| 4. First Noticeable Symptoms: | When leaves become fully expanded |
| 5. Spray Program: | Protectant sprays (with eradicant sprays when necessary) |
| 6. Applications per Season: | 5 - 12 |

Stop! Read the label on every pesticide container each time before using the material. Pesticides must be applied only as directed on the label to be in compliance with the law. All pesticides listed in this publication are contingent upon continued registration. Contact the Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550 to check registration status. Dispose of empty containers safely, according to N.H. regulations.



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