



Understand and Manage

Apple Scab

Apple scab, caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*, is not considered a serious threat to crabapple or apple trees; however, repeated annual infections can weaken the tree making it more susceptible to other insect or disease problems.

Apple scab can seriously reduce the aesthetic quality of apple trees because of the early defoliation and blemishing to the leaves and fruit that it causes. Heavy infections can reduce growth, vigor, and apple yields. Apple scab is dependent on cool, wet weather. If spring weather is dry, scab may not be a serious problem that year.

Biology

- The pathogen overwinters in infected leaves on the ground from the previous year.
- In spring, overwintered spores (ascospores) mature and are discharged over a period of 5 to 9 weeks.
- Wind and splashing rain carry spores from infected leaves to new growth on nearby trees where new infections begin.
- In late summer or early fall the primary infections produce secondary spores and create new infections, which can continue through the growing season during wet periods.



infected apple trees will begin to defoliate in midsummer leaving a thin or weak appearing canopy



leaf symptoms in mid summer



scab symptoms on fruit

Susceptible Hosts: *Malus* species, including apple fruit trees and flowering crabapples

Distribution: Throughout the range of apple trees

Pathogen: *Venturia inaequalis*

Symptoms

- Brown to olive irregular-shaped spots on the leaves in late spring
- Spots become dark and velvety in appearance
- Heavily infected leaves may become yellow and result in premature defoliation from late spring through late summer.
- Fruit may also be infected and display similar symptoms to those on leaves.

Signs

- The velvety appearance of the leaf spots is the result of spore production on the leaf surface.



microscope image of an apple scab lesion

Treatment: Apple Scab

Management Strategy Summary

The need for fungicides depends on the susceptibility of the cultivar and weather conditions. Since apple scab is dependent on wet weather, fungicide applications may be needed for control during wet seasons. Proper sanitation, pruning, and watering, may suffice during dry seasons. Fungicide applications are preventive only and need to be timed properly for effective control.

It is important that the apples trees are treated in the spring time as this is when the infection occurs and not in midsummer when the symptoms begin to appear.

Product: Myclotect fungicide

Timing: Three applications are made starting at bud break and continuing at 10-14 day intervals. Drier springs may require only two applications, wetter springs may require as many as four.

Retreatments: Apple scab is a disease that must be treated each year

Application Method: Foliar spray

Myclotect[™]
fungicide



treatment of apple trees is done by spraying the leaves in the spring



trees that are treated for apple scab will continue to thrive and add value to the landscape

Other Treatment Practices:

- Avoid wetting the foliage with irrigation during the growing season.
- Rake and remove fallen leaves from yard in autumn to reduce spores.
- Each winter, prune suckers and branches throughout the crown to improve air circulation.