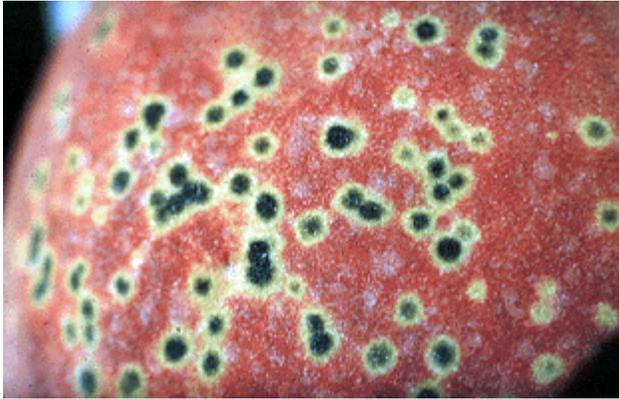


**Problem:** Scab on Stone Fruits - *Cladosporium carpophilum*



**Host Plants:** Peaches, nectarines, apricots, and plums

**Description:** This disease can affect twigs and leaf petioles, but the most serious damage results from fruit infection. Twig cankers begin as small, reddish lesions on current season's growth. These cankers expand slowly and may not be visible until mid-summer. The small cankers have irregular margins, but do not cause sunken areas on the bark. Fruit lesions start as small greenish spots. These generally don't appear until the fruit is half grown even though infection occurred earlier in the season. Older lesions are approximately 1/4 inch in diameter and develop a dusty or velvety green appearance. The numerous lesions typically are clustered near the stem end of the fruit. Extensive spotting can result in fruit cracks, which serve as entrance points for several fruit-rotting fungi.

The fungus overwinters in lesions on twigs. Conidia are produced in the spring after petal-fall and are windblown or splashed about by rain. The conditions which favor disease development are temperatures above 60°F for spore production, over 50°F (optimal 72°F to 86°F) for spore germination, and between 36°F and 95°F for disease development. Most infection occurs at the shuck-split stage of growth, although the fruit remains susceptible through harvest.

**Recommendations:** Most scab infection occurs between shuck-split and 6 weeks after shuck split. This period coincides with the peak spore production by the fungus. During this time, fruit should be protected with regular fungicide applications. Homeowners can apply chlorothalonil (Fertilome Broad Spectrum Fungicide, Ortho Garden Disease Control, Bonide Fung-Onil Concentrate, GardenTech Fungicide Disease Control, others) or Captan. Commercial apple growers or other large-scale growers should consult the current Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide at the following website: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/14488>. Fungicide sprays during

bloom and petal fall are not necessary for scab control. Proper pruning increases air movement within the tree crown and decreases the likelihood of twig infection.

**References:**

1. [Peach Scab](#), University of Florida Extension, HS1249

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