

A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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Apple Scab

Description: Scab, caused by *Venturia inaequalis*, is one of the most important diseases of apples in the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States. However, it is generally not as important in apple orchards in the Southeast because the warm weather during the summer is unfavorable for secondary spread.

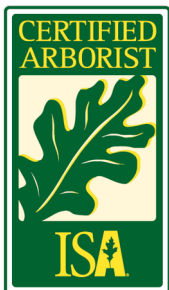
Symptoms: Young scab infections on leaves are characterized by velvety olive green lesions that often become necrotic in their centers as they age. Early season infections frequently occur on the lower leaf surface, but lesions can be found on the upper surface as well. Extensive infections can cause early defoliation that weakens the tree and often reduces return bloom for the next year's crop. Late season infections often occur on the underside terminal leaves after the final spray and before leaf fall and are often dark in appearance.



Apple Scab: Leaf and Fruit Infection

Control: The need to control apple scab is usually greater in North Carolina and Virginia than in other growing areas of the Southeast. Where scab is a problem, fungicides should be applied from green tip through petal fall or first cover. Additional applications may be needed in cool, wet seasons. Fungicide applications can be made on either a protectant or post infection schedule. Protectant sprays should be made on a 5- to 7-day interval beginning at silver tip or early green tip and continuing through petal fall. In most years the peak period of ascospore maturity occurs from tight cluster to bloom. However, during some years, spores mature by silver tip, and if conditions are favorable for infection, sepal infection can occur and result in misshapen fruit.

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