

Citrus scab

Farmer
Fact Sheet

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What is it?

Scab is caused by a fungus. It is a disease of lemon, rough lemon and mandarin. Grapefruit, orange and pomelo are also susceptible, but less so. The scientific name is *Elsinoe*.

Damage

Scab is not an important disease in mature plantations. Although infections on the fruit lower market value, they do not affect yield. It is more serious in nurseries of sour orange, rough lemon, Rangpur lime and other rootstocks, making them difficult to bud.



How do I identify it?

Look for the raised scabs on leaves, twigs and fruit (photo). On young leaves, they are surrounded by bright yellow margins. Look for twisted, distorted leaves.

Very small spores produced in the scabs are spread in wind and rain. Insects may also spread them. Spread over long distances is on infected nursery plants and fruits.

How to manage citrus scab

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Establish rootstock nurseries far from orchards infected by scab;
- Prune trees regularly to keep an open canopy free of deadwood.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Fungicides should be applied to plants in nurseries at the beginning of the leaf flush to prevent scab infection leading to stunted bushy plants that are difficult to bud. Copper (copper oxychloride) or chlorothanonil (Bravo) can be used.

AUTHORS **Helen Tsatsia** • **Grahame Jackson**

HT works for MAL; GJ is with TerraCircle Inc.



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READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING ANY PESTICIDE