



APPLE SCAB

Host Plants and Description

Crabapples and apples are the hosts of this fungus, but a similar scab may also be seen on aspen, birch, cotoneaster, cottonwood, firethorn, hawthorn, maple, mountain ash, pear, poplar, quince and willow.

Symptoms first appear in spring on the underside of the leaves as small, brown to green irregularly shaped spots. As the disease progresses, these spots become more circular and take on a velvety appearance, deepening to dark brown or black. Later the leaves become dwarfed, curled, and scorched on the margins, eventually turning yellow and dropping. Fruit can also be affected. The infection begins as velvety, olive green circles and then becomes darker until the skin in the infected area ruptures and the fruit cracks. Infection takes place when the temperature is between 41 and 79° F., and the problem is most prevalent in wet weather. As the temperature rises, less time is needed for infection to start.

Control

Keeping plants healthy is the first step in control of this disease. Try to avoid stressing plants and practice good sanitation by removing and destroying any fallen leaves, flowers or fruit, as this is where the disease winters over. Plant resistant varieties.

Fungicides will help to control this disease, but *only* on a preventative basis, and plants must be sprayed in spring before symptoms start, beginning just after leaf bud break (when ½" of green leaf tissue is visible) and continuing every two weeks through petal fall. Thorough coverage is essential. Various fungicides will work, including Ferti-lome Liquid Fungicide (chlorothalonil), maneb, sulfur, Ferti-lome Halt, and Bordeaux mix.

Some Disease Resistant Crabapple Varieties: 'Coralburst,' 'Guinevere,' 'Lancelot,' 'Prairiefire,' 'Robinson,' sargentii