

# APPLE SCAB

## WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Apple scab is a disease caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis* which affects leaves, fruit and twigs. Outbreaks are most severe following particularly wet and cool spring conditions. The fungus overwinters on fallen leaves and begins to develop spores prior to bud break. The spores are transported by wind, rain, or other physical means to infect developing leaves, twigs, and fruit. Once the fungal infection is established, more spores are produced and spread to other areas of the tree.

## WHERE IS THE THREAT:

Apple scab is most common in apple trees, but the fungus infects pear, hawthorn, and crabapple as well. It occurs wherever these trees are grown, but particularly in areas with cool spring weather, such as the northeast, the Pacific northwest, and northern parts of the central US.

## SYMPTOMS:

Young leaves infected in the spring first show lesions on the leaf bottom. Lesions are first a lighter shade of green than surrounding tissues and later become olive colored with a velvet texture. As leaves continue to expand, affected tissues become puckered and distorted. Infected leaves and fruit are generally blistered and “scabbed” in appearance. By midsummer, severely infected leaves and fruit will fall from the tree.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Early spring leaf disease is best treated with a fall injection of either PHOSPHO-jet™ or Propizol®. This timing assures that the fungicide will be in place in time for canopy emergence. In areas of severe disease pressure, a fall injection of Propizol followed by a bark drench of PHOSPHO-jet will provide additional health benefits.



*Leaves infected with apple scab, showing brown spots and yellowing*



*Defoliation of tree canopy*



*Olive green to brown gray spots*

Header Image taken by: Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org Leaves infected taken by: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org, Defoliation taken by: Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org Olive Green taken by: Srdjan Acimovic, Arborjet Inc.