

Avocado scab

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

What is Avocado scab?

Avocado scab (*Elsinoë perseae*) is a widespread fungal disease of avocado that causes severe losses from fruit drop and reduces fruit quality by marking fruit.

What does it look like?

Leaf symptoms:

- Small discrete lesions along midrib and main veins.
- Lesions may coalesce into star-shaped patterns.
- Shot-holes may develop.
- Infections on lower leaf surface, mainly on midrib and main veins.
- Lesions on petioles, twigs, and fruit pedicels.
- Elevated, oval spots on veins, petioles, and bark of twigs.
- Distorted and stunted leaves.
- Lesions often in upper part of tree canopy.

Fruit symptoms:

- Corky, raised, oval or irregularly shaped brown to purplish-brown spots.
- Spots enlarge and coalesce to form rough areas over fruit surface.
- Fungus does not penetrate flesh.
- Cracked areas may allow secondary pathogens to penetrate fruit.

What damage does it do?

- Severe losses from fruit drop.
- Reduces fruit quality by marking fruit.
- Injures pericarp of young fruits.
- Cosmetic damage such as rough areas on fruit surface.
- Most severe damage occurs during periods of high humidity (due to rainfall or heavy dew) when fruit is at the susceptible immature stage.

What can it be confused with?

Avocado scab can be confused with physiological damage such as fruit rub.



Cracked scabby areas develop on fruit

Cesar Calderon, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



Corky, raised, spots appear on fruit

Randy Ploetz, University of Florida



Scabs may be brown, purplish or pink in appearance

Ken Pegg, DEEDI



Where is it now?

Avocado scab is present in;

- Africa (Guinea, Morocco, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
- Asia (the Philippines and Taiwan).
- Central America (Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Puerto Rico).
- The Caribbean (Barbados, Bermuda and Dominica)
- United States (Florida and Texas)
- South America (Guyana, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil)

What are the risk materials and pathways it can move around on?

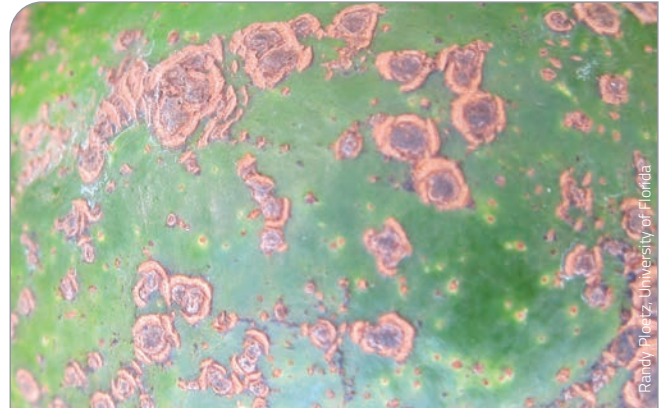
- Movement of infected propagation and other plant material.
- Can disperse short distances by rain splash, wind, or insect transmission.
- Spores or plant material adhering to shared equipment, vehicles, or clothing.

On-farm biosecurity practices

Developing an on-farm biosecurity plan and making sure staff follow good biosecurity practices are functional ways to reduce the risk of pests and diseases entering your orchard. Suggested practices for avocado scab include:

- Monitor regularly and maintain comprehensive records of pest and disease monitoring.
- Use planting material from accredited nurseries.
- Avoid sharing equipment.
- Disinfectant washes for footwear and vehicles.
- Have a visitor and staff register.

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Symptoms of scab on avocado fruit



Dirty footwear can potentially act as a carrier of spores

If you see anything unusual, call the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**

**EXOTIC PLANT
PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

Use trees from ANVAS accredited nurseries

