

## Sweet orange scab

### What is it?

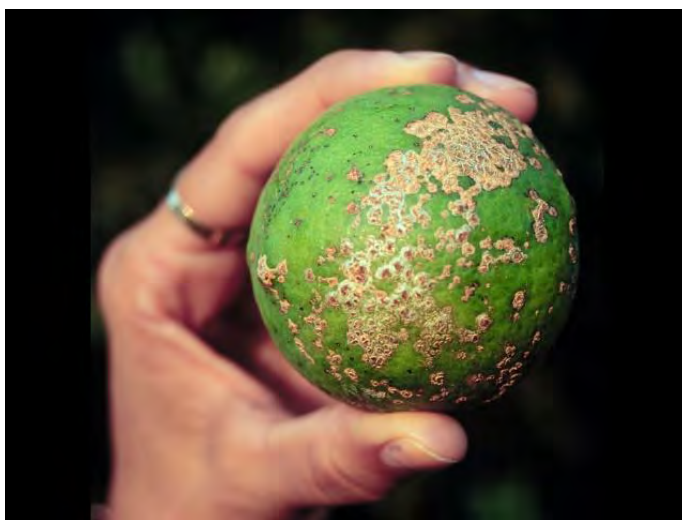
Sweet orange scab is a fungal disease that scars and distorts citrus fruit, reducing marketability, particularly for those intended for the fresh fruit market.

### Primary hosts

Oranges and mandarins are the most important hosts of sweet orange scab. It also affects lemons, limes, kumquats, satsumas and many other citrus species.

### Where does it occur?

There are four pathotypes of scab currently recognised and these differ in host range. Tryon's and Lemon pathotypes are already found in coastal growing regions in Australia. The other two pathotypes, including Florida broad host range, and Florida narrow host range, have not been found in Australia. These have the potential to be more economically significant, as they attack citrus species that are more widely grown.



Fruit showing symptoms of sweet orange scab

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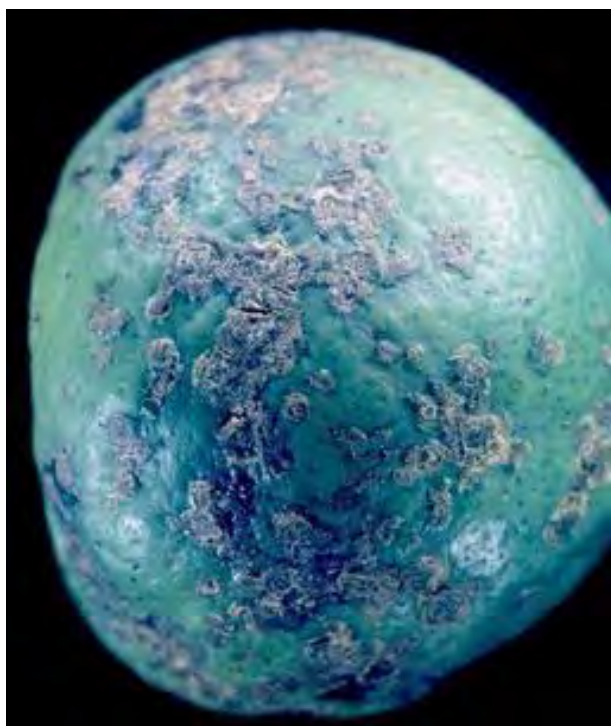
Fruit showing symptoms of sweet orange scab

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Sweet orange scab symptoms on orange fruit

Division of Plant Industry Archive, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org



Sweet orange scab symptoms on tangarine fruit

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## Infection and spread

Spores are produced on scab lesions on young fruit. These are spread by wind and rain. Damp conditions are necessary for infection, such as those caused by rain, dew, or overhead irrigation. New infections occur only in immature tissue, with fruit susceptible to infection from the ½ petal fall stage up until 12 weeks of age.

## Symptoms

Irregular scabby areas form on the fruit, leaves and twigs of infected trees. These are grey or pinkish in colour, and become darker with age.

Wart-like outgrowths with scabby tops are common on fruit, and can also occur occasionally on leaves. The disease can lead to shedding of young fruit. Whilst internal fruit quality is unaffected, the external symptoms reduce marketability.

## Biosecurity measures

Quarantine is the best way to prevent this disease from entering Australia. The biggest threat is of people smuggling infected planting material into the country. Bringing citrus into Australia illegally places the whole industry at risk.

## How can I protect my orchard from sweet orange scab?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common citrus pests so you can tell if you see something different.

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

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
**1800 084 881**

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### Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Citrus Industry, visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au), email [admin@phau.com.au](mailto:admin@phau.com.au) or phone (02) 6215 7700.