

Apple Scab Is On The Way

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Michigan fruit growers, and homeowners with back yard apple trees, can expect the year's first major outbreak of apple scab within the next week or two.

University plant pathologist, "Cool, wet weather, caused by late May rains, created conditions favorable to apple scab infection. The first symptoms should show up 10 to 14 days after the rainy period.

"In Michigan, 1971 is unusual because our first major scab infection period has come so late," says Jones. "Although some areas in the state have had one or two minor infections already,

there has been less apple scab than in 1969 or 1970." Jones notes that this low level of early spring apple scab infection - caused by the lack of heavy rains during April and May - has saved

apple growers three to five sprays this year. "APPLE SCAB is caused by a fungus occurring throughout the world where apples are grown and Michigan's climate is one of the most favorable for scab,"

says Jones. "Fortunately, controls have been developed and losses from scab can be prevented if apple trees are watched closely. "When looking for scab symptoms, look on the leaves and the fruit. The disease symptoms show up best here," says Jones.

Leaf infections appear first on the flower bud leaves as velvety brown or olive colored spots or lesions. The infection later spreads to other leaves. With age, lesions on leaves will turn black. Those on fruit look just like the ones on leaves during the early phases of the disease. Later, however, fruit lesions become brown and "corky."

"Many chemicals are available for controlling scab," says Jones. "Which one you choose depends on how it works and when you want to use it."

Protectant fungicides keep the apple scab spores from germinating and must be applied before infection. They may be applied on a regular basis or on a schedule based on expected rainfall.

Eradicant fungicides kill the spores after they have landed on the tree. They have a "kick-back" action - and can be applied after the infection period has begun and still be effective. Jones cautions, however, "The effective action of these fungicides is usually limited to a few hours or days, so the timing is very important."

"OTHER TYPES of chemicals can also help in controlling scab," says Jones. "Systemic chemicals that move along with the tree's sap are now becoming available. These chemicals can provide longer periods of control than sprays that are applied to the surface of the leaves, fruit, limbs and trunk."

Some systemic and eradicant fungicides have curative properties as well. "These sprays don't kill the fungus, but they do keep it from spreading to other parts of the tree," says Jones.

"From an environmental standpoint, resistant varieties would be the best answer to the apple scab problem," says Jones. "Such varieties are just now coming onto the market after many years of research."

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FIX-IT TIP

Special Ed Bill Gets Local 'OK'

Two bills passed the House last week with the support of all Observerland representatives who voted on them.

One bill would require that all public schools have full special education curriculum for mentally and physically handicapped students by the 1973 school year.

It passed by a 90-10 vote. Rep. James Tierney (D-Garden City) and Rep. Richard Young (D-Deerborn Heights) did not vote on the bill.

Casting "yes" votes were: Reps. John Bennett, (D-Redford Township), Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park).

All of the representatives voted for passage of a second bill that would guarantee female workers the same wages that a male doing the same job would get. The bill was drafted to fill gaps in the federal legislation on the subject.

Both bills were referred to the Senate.

Garden hoses would last a lot longer if people would let them. But folks persist in dragging them over rough concrete, driving over them, leaving the water turned on at the faucet while turning off the nozzle, crimping them to stop the water momentarily, crimping them accidentally because someone didn't make certain it was unwound properly and doing all sorts of things that torture a hose designed for nothing more than carrying water. Don't be guilty of these abuses of your garden hose.

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