

The Backyard Orchard – Citrus Diseases– Module 5.3 - Citrus Scab & Sweet Orange Scab



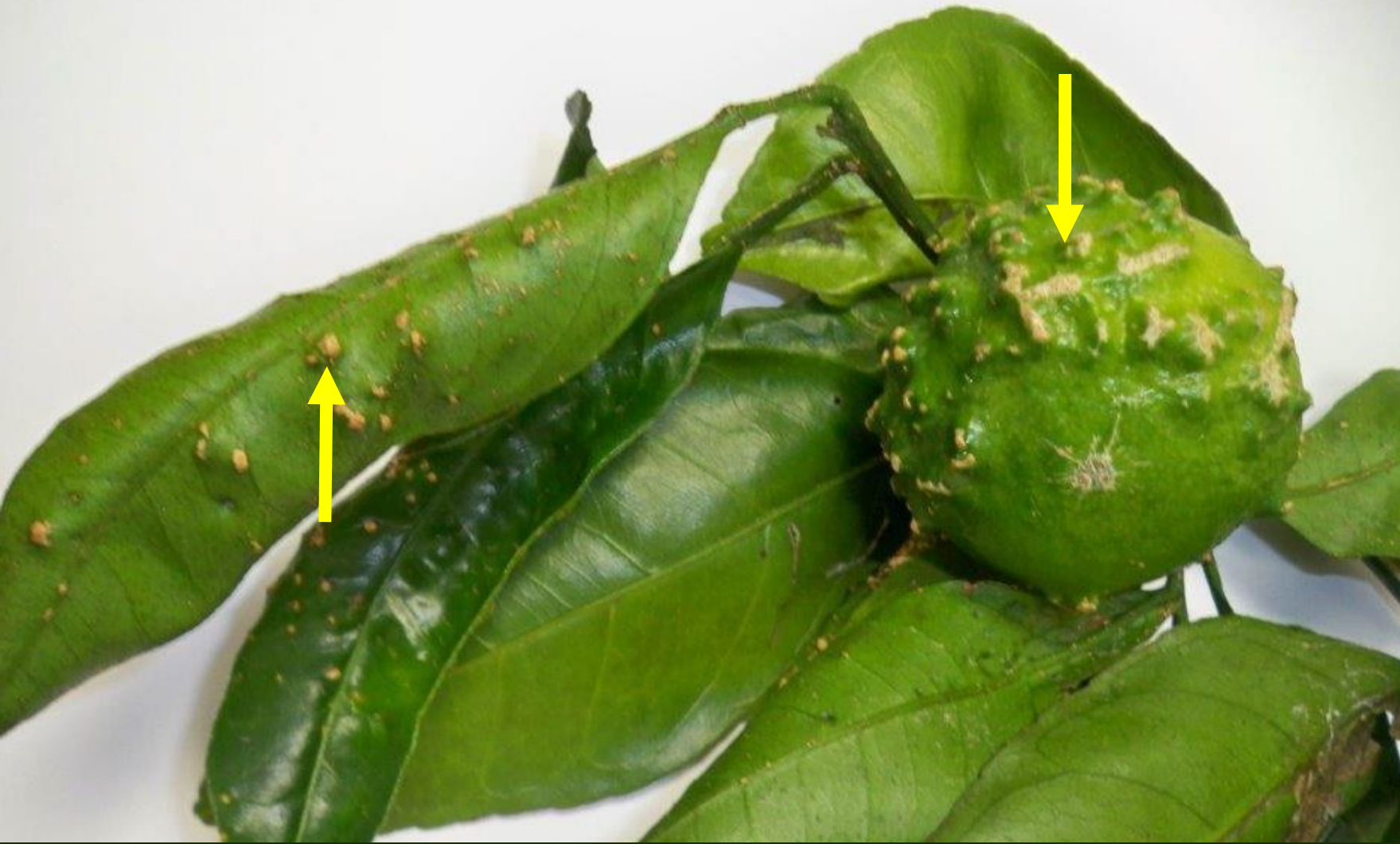
LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard
Certificate Course

Dr. Raj Singh, Dr. Joe Willis, Anna Timmerman & Chris Dunaway

Citrus scab

- Also known as common citrus scab or sour orange scab.
- Citrus scab is a fungal disease.
- Citrus scab is caused by *Elsinoë fawcettii*
- The disease occurs primarily on sour orange (used primarily as rootstocks), grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, satsumas, tangerines and tangerine hybrids.
- It rarely affects oranges or limes.
- Citrus scab affects fruit, leaves and young shoots, causing irregular raised corky, scabby wart-like outgrowths.
- Severely scabbed leaves and fruit become misshapen and distorted.
- The rind of scabbed fruit is thick and puffy.

Citrus scab symptoms

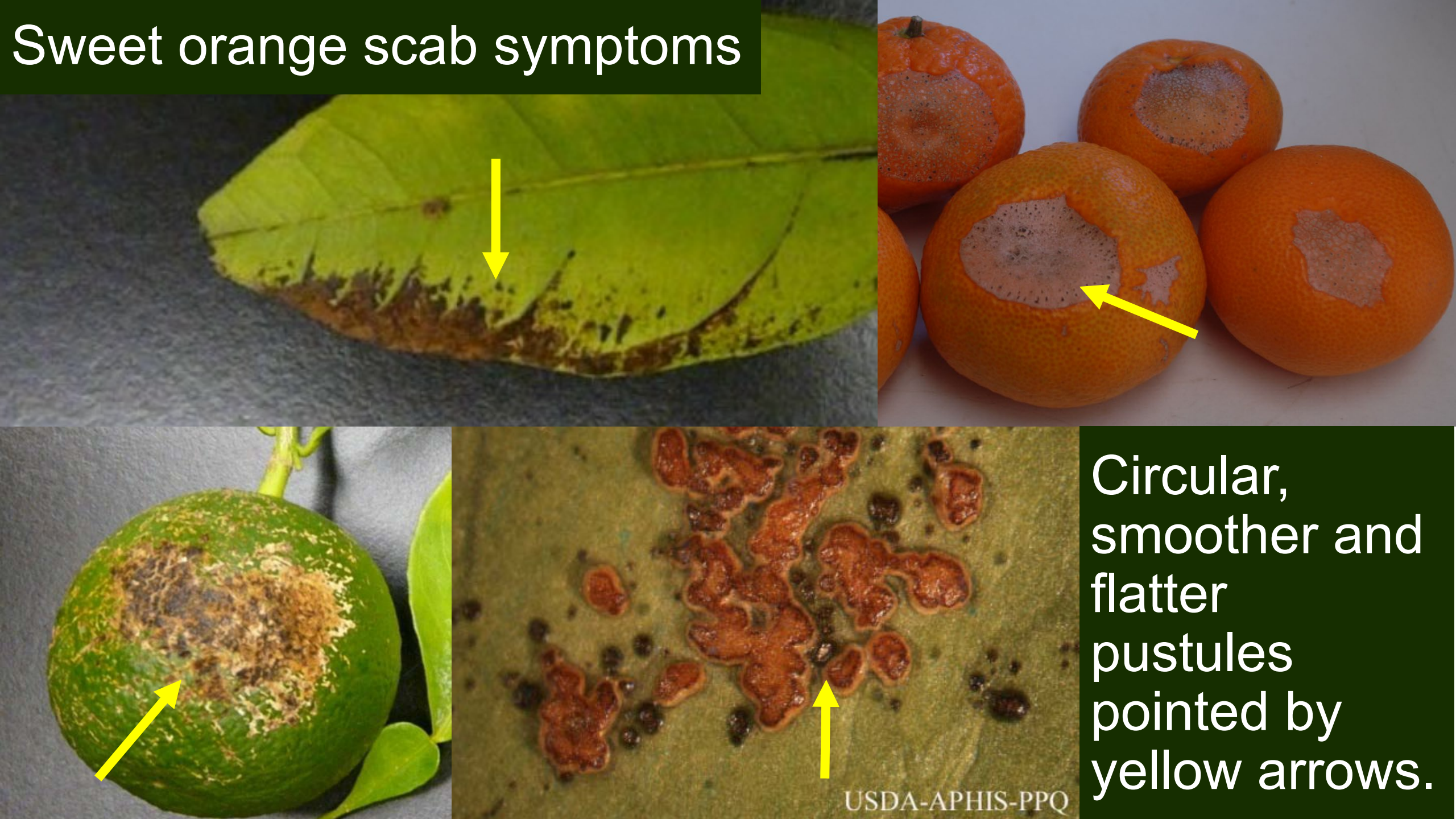


Irregular raised corky, scabby wart-like outgrowths pointed by yellow arrows.

Sweet orange scab

- Sweet orange scab (SOS) is a fungal disease.
- Sweet orange scab is caused by *Elsinoë australis*.
- The disease was first identified from Louisiana and Texas in summer of 2010.
- The disease occurs on sweet oranges, limes, lemons, mandarins, satsumas, kumquat, grapefruit, tangerines and tangerine hybrids.
- Sweet orange scab produces circular, smoother and flatter pustules.
- These pustules give the fruit a corky or scurfy appearance.

Sweet orange scab symptoms



Circular,
smoother and
flatter
pustules
pointed by
yellow arrows.

USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Citrus scab and sweet orange scab epidemiology

- Both pathogens require moist conditions to reproduce.
- The pathogens spread primarily by splashing water or wind-driven rain.
- The pathogens may also spread by infected leaves or fruits.
- The pathogen survives between crops in pustules on infected leaves, twigs and fruit left on the tree.
- Citrus scab develops quite rapidly under optimum temperature of 68-75⁰ F conditions.
- Sweet orange scab develops quite rapidly under optimum temperature of 75-80⁰ F conditions.

Citrus scab and sweet orange scab management

- Both citrus and sweet orange scabs can be controlled with a series of well-timed fungicide applications. Fruit are only susceptible for the first six to eight weeks of its development.
- The first fungicide application should be made prior to bloom to protect the foliage of the spring growth flush.
- Applications to protect the developing fruit should be made at petal fall and three to four weeks later.
- Fungicides are available to commercial growers for scab control (See the LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Plant Disease Management Guide).
- Only copper-based fungicides are readily available for use on residential citrus.
- These copper-based fungicides should not be applied during bloom.



Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.

