The Backyard Orchard – Citrus Diseases– Module 5.5 Other Diseases Part 2

LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard Certificate Course

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Greasy leaf spot

- Greasy leaf spot is a fungal disease caused by *Mycosphaerella citri*.
- It is most severe on grapefruits, lemons and sweet oranges, but all citrus cultivars are susceptible to the disease.
- Extended periods of high humidity and high temperature favor disease development.
- Symptoms start on the lower surface of mature leaves as yellow to dark brown lesions and corresponding slightly raised chlorotic spots appear on the upper surface of the leaves.
- As the disease progresses, the lesions on both surfaces become darker and turn greasy in appearance.
- Severely affected leaves turn yellow and defoliate prematurely.

Greasy leaf spot symptoms

Slightly raised chlorotic spots on the upper leaf surface

Greasy leaf spot symptoms

Yellow to dark brown lesions on the lower leaf surface

Greasy leaf spot management

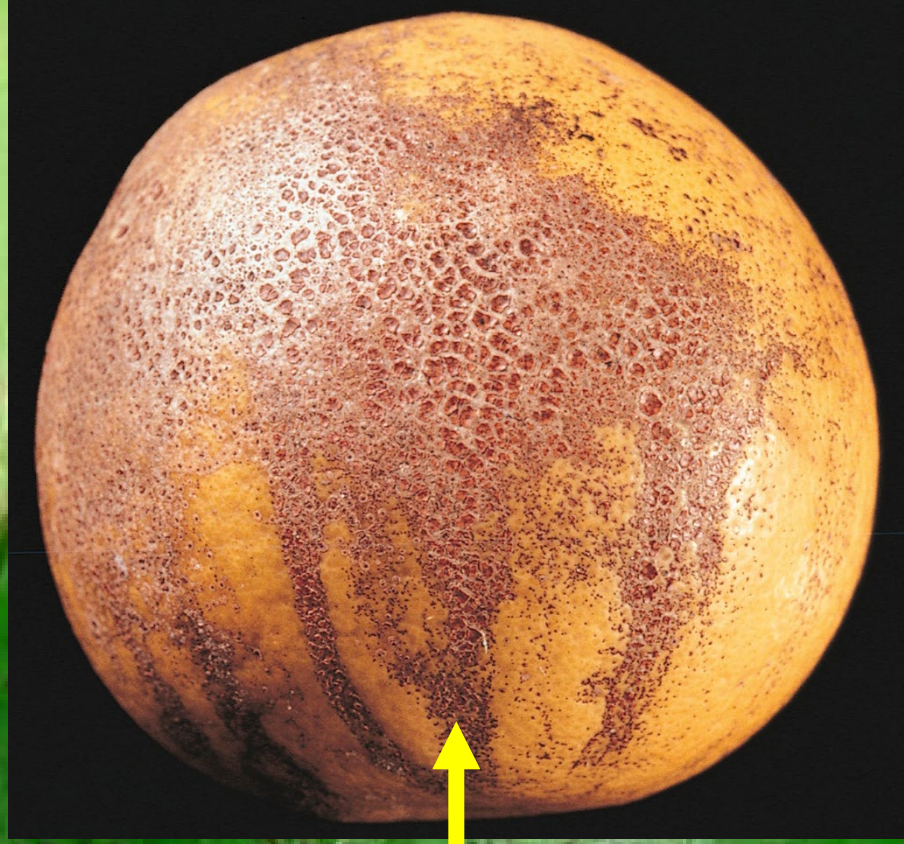
- Removal of leaf debris containing infected and decaying leaves from the ground is essential to reduce the fungal spores.
- Timely application of copper fungicides may provide good disease control. Uniform tissue coverage is required for better disease management.
- Spray copper fungicides 2-3 weeks after petal fall followed by a second spray at 2-3 weeks interval.
- Coppers fungicides can be used for organic gardening.
- Do not mix with liquid fertilizers.
- Do not use in spray solutions with a pH of less than 6.5.
- May cause staining of masonry, concrete, etc.

Melanose

- Melanose is a fungal disease caused by *Diaporthe citri*.
- The disease affects leaves, shoots and fruit and forms numerous dark brown dots or spots.
- These spots are at first sunken but later become slightly raised but not as much as scab.
- The spots may cover one side of the surface of the fruit, or they may run in streaks to form a tear stain-like pattern.
- Melanose infection occurs on young, tender growth.
- The fruit becomes progressively resistant with age.

Melanose symptoms

Slightly raised spots on upper leaf surface



Spots streaks to form a tear stain-like pattern

Esther Serrano, USDA

Melanose management

- The fungus produces spores on dead twigs and branches.
- Pruning and burning the dead wood helps to control this disease by eliminating much of the source of infection.
- Manage melanose on the fruit with copper spray one to three weeks after bloom and fruit set when the fruit is pea-size.
- Coppers fungicides can be used for organic gardening.
- Do not mix with liquid fertilizers.
- Do not use in spray solutions with a pH of less than 6.5.
- May cause staining of masonry, concrete, etc.

Anthracnose

- Anthracnose is a fungal disease caused by *Colletotrichum* sp.
- The disease can cause symptoms on both leaves and fruits.
- Anthracnose produces light tan spots with dark purple margins on the leaves.
- Dry, firm decay of fruits occur and the entire fruit rot under during wet weather.
- As the disease develops, the lesions on the fruit and leaves produce spores that may disperse with water splashed from rain or irrigation. Removal of infected fruits both from the ground and on the tree is crucial to reduce the fungal spores.

Anthracnose symptoms

Anthracnose management

- Removal of infected fruits both from the ground and on the tree is crucial to reduce the fungal spores.
- Prune dead and dying twigs in spring during regular citrus pruning season. Discard or burn the pruned twigs to reduce the fungal inoculum.
- Fungicide applications should be directed at the entire tree.
- Apply fungicides in the fall.
- Uniform coverage is required for better disease management.

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