

Alternaria Brown Spot & Citrus Scab

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Alternaria Brown Spot

This fungal disease can cause severe leaf and fruit drop particularly in Minneola (Honeybell) and Orlando tangelos, Dancy tangerine, and Murcott (Honey tangerine). Alternaria must be controlled on these cultivars to obtain high yields of good quality fruit. The spores of this disease are air-borne, but require moisture for germination and infection. Leaf tissue is susceptible until it is fully expanded and fruit is susceptible for about 3 months after bloom. Use Copper fungicides for the control of this disease. The first spray should be applied when the spring flush leaves are 1/4-1/2 expanded. In severe cases, another spray should be applied when the leaves are near full expansion to reduce the infection on the fruit. Another spray should be scheduled shortly after petal fall. From April through June, spray applications may be needed as often as every 10 days or as infrequently as once a month depending on the frequency and amount of rainfall.

Citrus Scab

This fungal disease affects grapefruit, Temple orange, Murcott, tangelos (Honeybell), and some other tangerine hybrids. If leaves from the previous season are heavily infected by citrus scab, 3 applications should be scheduled to control this disease. The first spray should be applied at about 1/4 expansion of the spring flush leaves, the second at petal fall and the third about 3 weeks later. Fruit becomes resistant to scab about 2 months after petal fall. On tangelos and Murcott, Alternaria brown spot and scab occur together. Under this circumstance, copper fungicides may be the best choice for all 3 sprays.