Apple Scab

Scientific Name: Venturia inequalis

Apple Scab is a fungal disease that infects apple trees causing lesions on the leaves and fruit. These lesions can also infect stems, resulting in dieback. Most apple cultivars are susceptible to scab and will require fungicidal sprays to prevent the disease. The disease rarely kills its host but causes unsightly defoliation. The pathogen overwinters primarily in infected leaves on the ground.

Attacks: Apples, crabapples, and Mountain ash

What you will see:

- Velvety brown to olive colored spots on leaves
  - Later, these spots turn black
- Heavily infected leaves may turn yellow and drop from the tree
- Fruit may also display lesions similar to leaves
  - Lesions become brown and corky
  - Infections cause fruit to mature unevenly and crack

Life cycle:

- In late fall and early spring, black pimplles develop on infected leaves from the previous year
- Spores are released and blown by wind or splashed by rain to nearby trees
- The fungus may infect leaves, fruit, petioles, and blossoms
- Primary infections produce secondary spores which infect other leaves and fruit
- Secondary infections continue throughout the growing season during wet periods
Cultural Managements for Apple Scab

**Cultural practices:**

- Plant less susceptible cultivars
- Rake and dispose of fallen leaves to reduce spores
  - Do not compost infected leaves
- Improve air circulation through pruning
- Water at ground level only, avoid splashing on foliage

**Infected trees require chemical treatment for control.**

For more information on prevention and management please contact the City of Maple Grove or a Consulting Arborist with the Urban Forestry Institute.

**An integrated approach**

When caring for urban trees it is important to make a complete evaluation of all environmental conditions to accurately diagnose all stress factors and prescribe care based on specific circumstances. This prescriptive care will help your tree meet its full potential.

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