

Citrus black spot

By Megan Dewdney

(This is the first in a series of brief articles about exotic pests, diseases or weeds that will appear in Citrus Industry throughout 2010.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Sexual stage *Guignardia citricarpa*; Asexual stage *Phyllosticta citricarpa*

LEAF SYMPTOMS: Seldom found. Most common on lemons. Small round sunken lesions have a gray center with dark brown margin and yellow halo.

FRUIT SYMPTOMS: Highly varied. Appear once fruit rind has matured. Enhanced by increasing temperatures, high light intensity, drought and poor vigor.

Hard spot or shot-hole spot: Most common symptom. Small round lesions are sunken with gray center with brick-red to black margin often cracked around edges. Fungal structures present appear as slightly elevated black dots. Occurs as the fruit begins to color during preharvest on side with greatest light exposure.

Speckled blotch or false melanose: Appears on green fruit early



Hard spot



Virulent spot



Early virulent



Cracked spot



Fruit and leaf symptoms lemon

in season. Slightly depressed lesions can vary in color from tan to brownish. Can become hard spot as season progresses.

Virulent, spreading or galloping spot: Most serious symptom. Irregularly shaped lesions can cover large portion of fruit surface and turn brown to black. Lesion surface has leathery texture with many fungal structures. Occurs on mature, heavily infected fruit at end of season.

CULTIVAR SUSCEPTIBILITY: All commercial cultivars susceptible. Late maturing cultivars especially vulnerable. Lemons are very susceptible.

GEOGRAPHIC

DISTRIBUTION: Found in wet regions of Australia and South Africa, as well as Sub-Saharan Africa, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, the West Indies, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

Megan Dewdney is assistant professor, University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred. 🍊