



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato scab (013)



Photo 1. Distorted, torn leaves showing the brown scabby areas along the veins and leaf stalks caused by *Elsinoe batatas*. These are the places where the spores are produced.



Photo 2. Twisted, deformed leaves showing the undersurfaces and the brown scabby areas of *Elsinoe batatas*. Many of the scabs are on the leaf veins and petioles.



Photo 3. Twisted leaves of sweetpotato exposing the undersides, due to infection by the scab fungus, *Elsinoe batatas*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On sweetpotato. A common, and sometimes serious fungal disease.
- Worse in wet weather.
- Young leaves infected early, especially along veins causing them to distort as they expand.
- Spread is by water splash, wind-driven rain, and on planting material.
- Cultural control: tolerant varieties, which exist in most countries. If susceptible varieties are needed, grow cuttings from sweetpotato storage roots, in a nursery far from production areas.
- Chemical control: mancozeb when symptoms first occur, but likely to be uneconomic.

Common Name

Sweetpotato scab

Scientific Name

Elsinoe batatas, but sometimes known as *Sphaceloma batatas* (the asexual stage). Usually, only the asexual state is seen on the leaves.

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Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

