

APPLE SCAB & CEDAR APPLE RUST

The Diseases

Apple Scab is one of the more common diseases of apples & crabapples in Nebraska. It is caused by a fungus that spends the winter in infested leaves on the ground or on stems and branches of the tree. Spring rains and wind discharges the spores into the air and infect new leaves. The first visible symptoms are small, discrete, olive to greenish-black lesions on the underside of the leaf. Leaves with large numbers of lesions often become distorted, turn yellow and brown, and drop prematurely. Be sure to clean up and dispose the infected leaves. Foliage that develops later will not be affected.

Cedar Apple Rust is a fungal disease that affects edible apple, flowering crabapple, or hawthorn. The cycle begins when the corky, brown galls form on cedar trees in the fall. After the spring rains, the woody galls form orange projections from which the fungal spores are released. They are blown to the apple trees, where the spores infect leaves, fruit, or occasionally twigs. The spore production and release are favored by wet weather in April. Orangeyellow spots form on the upper leaf surface and later, cup-shaped structures are produced on the underside of the leaf directly below the upper surface lesions. In some cases, the rust may form elongated swollen cankers on the current season's growth which may girdle twigs and cause branch die back.

Control Cedar Apple Rust & Scab:

Correct timing is critical since the fungicides are preventive and will not cure an established infection. Use Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide (not for use on edibles) or Fertilome "F" Stop. An organic option is Bonide Liquid Copper. Six or more sprays are recommended at 7-10 day intervals to ensure adequate protection. If it rains within 6 hours of spraying, you should re-spray.

When to Apply:

- 1.) Flower buds are swelling, but still nestled against the branch. There may be tiny leaves at this stage. (Mid April)
- 2.) Flower buds have developed short stems and the buds have separated, resembling a lollipop, **Do not apply fungicide while flowering (See guide for Fire Blight for apples and crabapples. Treatment for Fire Blight occurs during flowering)
- 3.) When 80% of the flowers have dropped from the tree Spray every 5-7 days for the first 3 sprays after flowering. Then spray every 7-10 days while the weather is cool, rainy, and humid. Spraying after it rains will be important, as that's how the spores are spread.



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1.) **DO NOT APPLY INSECTICIDES OR FUNGICIDES DURING BLOOM, UNLESS THE DISEASE IS SPECIFICALLY TREATED THAT WAY. HONEYBEES AND OTHER INSECTS CAN BE HARMED AND ARE ESSENTIAL FOR FRUIT POLLINATION.**
- 2.) **ALWAYS BE SURE TO READ THE LABEL FOR APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & EDIBLE HARVEST DATES.**