



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Citrus sooty blotch (316)



Photo 1. Lower surface of citrus leaf showing spots caused by sooty blotch, *Meliola citricola*.

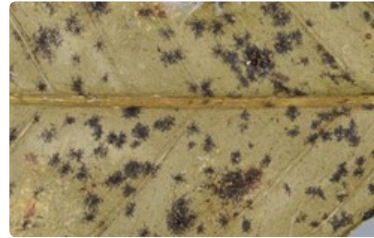


Photo 2. Spots on both the upper and lower surface of citrus leaves caused by sooty blotch, *Meliola citricola*.



Photo 3. Sooty blotch on orange, caused by *Meliola citricola*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Citrus species. A "cosmetic" disease. Fungal spots on fruit and leaves; on fruit, unsightly and affects quality. Unlikely to reduce yield unless severe on leaves and blocks sunlight.
- Spots, black, circular, on upper and lower surfaces, up to 5 mm diameter. More spots on densely shaded trees.
- Spores from the black spots spread by wind during wet or humid weather.
- Cultural control: prune trees after main harvest removing unhealthy, unwanted and poorly positioned branches, and to improve air movement so that leaves and fruit dry faster; avoid shade of taller trees.
- Chemical control: use horticultural oil. Try also white oil, or soap solution (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**).

Common Name

Citrus sooty blotch, black mould, black mildew

Scientific Name

Meliola citricola

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Photos 1&2 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Meliola citricola* PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>

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

