

Citrus canker (091)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On citrus including grapefruit, kumquat, lemon, lime, mandarin, orange, pomelo and tangerine, as well as other genera in the citrus family. An important disease.
- Bacterial spots on both sides of leaves and fruit causing them to fall early. Fruit unsightly. Spots up to 10 mm, with haloes on the leaves. Cankers cause twig dieback.
- Worse on grapefruit, lemon, lime and sweet orange.
- Spreads in wind-driven rain, water splash, and nursery plants. Enters through natural openings, wounds (e.g., leafminers). Survival is in leaf litter, and weeds.
- Cultural control: ensure nursery is canker-free; keep out of orchard when leaves wet; plant windbreaks around and between rows; Valencia orange and mandarin tolerant.
- Chemical control: 2-3 copper fungicide sprays 3 weeks apart, beginning when fruits are about 5 mm diameter.

Common Name

Citrus bacterial canker

Scientific Name

Xanthomonas citri (also known as *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *citri*, and *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*).



Photo 1. Spots - blister or craters - caused by citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*. Note the spots are surrounded by a yellow halo or margin, and that the leaves are not distorted as they are by citrus scab, *Elsinoë fawcettii*.



Photo 2. Close-up of the pustules formed by citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*, showing yellow haloes.



Photo 4. Underside of the leaf in Photo 3, showing pustules of citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*, without haloes. (Note the dark margins to the spots is not typical of scab, *Elsinoë fawcettii*).



Photo 3. Top side of the leaf showing pustules of citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*, without haloes.



Photo 5. Raised pustules on the surface of a lemon, caused by citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*, without yellow haloes.



Photo 6. Citrus root stocks infected with citrus canker, *Xanthomonas citri*.

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