

Apple black spot

Venturia inaequalis



What does it look like?

Apple Black spot is a fungal disease of apples, often referred to as apple scab outside of New Zealand. Apple black spot is a different fungus to pear black spot, and black spot on roses. Apple Black spot is found all over the world wherever apples are grown. In New Zealand, black spot is a common problem in all regions. It is a wet weather disease. Rainy and humid conditions early in the growing season provide ideal conditions for infection. In general, the higher the temperature and the longer it rains, the more severe the infection period will be. Apple black spot is spread mainly through windblown leaves which carry spores of the fungus.

Why is it a problem?

Infection early in the season may cause misshapen fruit. By harvest, spots are dried, cracked, and brown with a black outer edge. Infection just prior to or during harvest causes small black "pepper spotting" on fruit.

[Request more information](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/pest-hub/pest-hub-enquiry-form)

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Pest Management Programme

- Sustained Control Programme

Summary of Rules

- Occupiers of unmanaged pipfruit production sites shall, on receipt of a written direction from an Authorised Person, control Apple black spot on their land from the presence of green tips until fruit maturity/harvest.