FRUIT DISEASES

SOOTY BLOTCH AND FLY SPECK OF APPLE AND THEIR CONTROL IN VIRGINIA

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SOOTY BLOTCH AND FLY SPECK

Sooty blotch and fly speck are surface blemish diseases which commonly appear on apples in late summer and fall. Although the 2 diseases almost always appear together, they are caused by different fungi. Sooty blotch, caused by the fungus Gloeodes pomigena, appears as more or less sooty smudges or spots; while fly speck, caused by the fungus Microthyriella rubi, appears as small circular black spots which occur in groups and resemble true fly-specks. Both fungi infect the branches and twigs of many wild hosts, in addition to the apple. These infections provide the source of inoculum for infection. The development of both diseases is favored by moderate temperatures and high humidity. Infection may occur as early as June, but late-summer infection is the major concern with these diseases. Both diseases are superficial and do not rot the fruit, although sooty blotch-affected fruit may shrivel in storage as a result of the ruptured cuticle. Affected fruit are not acceptable for marketing as fresh fruit but are suitable for processing.

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RECOMMENDED CHEMICAL CONTROL

CAPTAN: Use 2.0 lbs captan 50% WP per 100 gals of spray or 2 tablespoons per gallon of spray. Apply 300 to 400 gals of spray per acre. Starting with the 4th cover spray or approximately 7 weeks after petal-fall, apply the spray at 2-week intervals through the rest of the growing season. The residue tolerance for captan is 25 ppm.

OR

FOLPET (Phaltan): Use 2.0lb folpet 50% WP per 100 gals of spray. Time of application and gals per acre are the same as for captan. The residue tolerance for folpet is 25 ppm.

OR

CAPTAN + ZINEB: Use 1.0 lb of captan 50% WP plus 1.0 lb of zineb 75% WP per 100 gals of spray. Apply 300 to 400 gals per acre, depending on tree size, in the late season cover sprays, from July through August. The residue tolerance for captan is 25 ppm and 2.0 ppm for zineb. There is a 15-day waiting period for zineb.

OR

DIKAR: Use 2.0 lbs Dikar 80% WP per 100 gals or 2 tablespoons per gallon of spray. Time of application and rate per acre or per tree are the same as for captan. Do not graze Dikar treated areas. There is a 21-day waiting period for Dikar. The residue tolerance for Dikar is 7 ppm for dithane-M-45 and 0.1 for karathane.

OR

POLYRAM: Use 2.0 lbs Polyram 80% WP per 100 gals or 2 tablespoons per gallon of spray. Time of application and gallons per acre or per tree are the same as for captan. There is a 15-day waiting period for Polyram. The residue tolerance for Polyram is 2 ppm. Do not graze Polyram treated areas.

Trade and brand names are used only for the purpose of information and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of the product, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable.

KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.

2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.

3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.