

Citrus Canker and Citrus Leprosis Fruit Symptom Comparison¹

The purpose of this publication is to aid citrus growers in distinguishing between citrus canker and leprosis symptoms on fruit.

CITRUS CANKER



Figure 1. Young canker lesions
Credit: J. D. Burrow, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Older canker lesions
Credit: J. D. Burrow, UF/IFAS

CITRUS LEPROSIS



Figure 3. Young leprosis lesions
Credit: M. E. Rogers, UF/IFAS



Figure 4. Older leprosis lesions
Credit: M. M. Dewdney, UF/IFAS

Citrus canker is a bacterial disease that is easily spread by wind-blown rain and the movement of equipment and people.

Fruit Symptoms

- Lesions are generally circular in shape and highly raised in texture.
- Lesions vary in size through coalescence (merging into one whole).
- Very early symptoms can appear dark brown.
- Early symptoms can appear dark brown.
- As the lesions age, a prominent yellow halo forms, and the center becomes dark brown to black.
- When moisture is present, oozing may occur.
- Circular cracks often form in the lesions.

Citrus leprosis is a viral disease that is spread by a group of mites in the genus *Brevipalpus*. The lesions are caused by infected flat mites feeding on the fruit peel. The mites move by wind but also can be moved by equipment and people.

Fruit Symptoms

- Lesions are generally circular but can coalesce.
- Early symptoms are flat and circular with the beginning stages of necrosis (dead areas).
- As the lesions age, they form concentric rings (zone pattern) with necrosis.
- Older lesions may be rusty-red to brown and sunken. Lesion centers may crack in high temperatures.

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2. Amit Levy, associate professor, Department of Plant Pathology; Jamie D. Burrow, Extension program manager; and Megan M. Dewdney, associate professor, Department of Plant Pathology; UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL 33850.

CITRUS CANKER



Credit: H. Chamberlain, former UF/IFAS



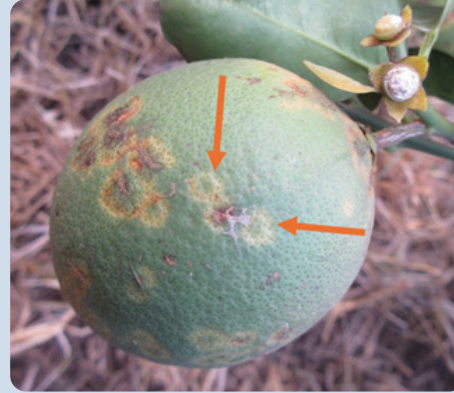
Credit: M. M. Dewdney, UF/IFAS



Credit: J. D. Burrow, UF/IFAS



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Credit: S. H. Futch, UF/IFAS



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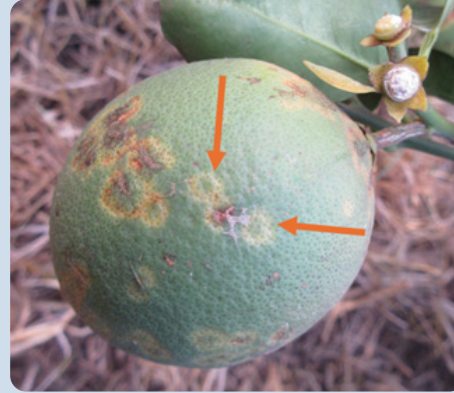


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