

Citrus Canker and Citrus Leprosis Fruit Symptom Comparison¹

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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 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.
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- 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



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

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

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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CITRUS CANKER

CITRUS LEPROSIS



Credit: H. Chamberlain, former UF/IFAS



Credit: M. M. Dewdney, UF/IFAS



Credit: A. Levy, UF/IFAS



Credit: S. H. Futch, UF/IFAS



Credit: J. D. Burrow, UF/IFAS



Credit: M. M. Dewdney, UF/IFAS



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