

## SCAB

Very common and widespread this fungal disease is most often seen on apple trees. The symptoms show themselves as firstly a dull browning on the foliage which looks a bit dusty. This will get darker over the spring months. As the fruit develop brown patches will occur on the fruits skin and looks more off putting than it actually is. If you only have a small amount of scab then you need to ask if it is really worth spraying.

Scab is more common when we have a damp and humid spring and the fungal spores spread more easily. To treat this disease you can spray with Dithane 945 from early spring onwards at fortnightly intervals and make sure that the tree is pruned correctly to allow the air to move freely through the heart of the plant and thus reduce infection.

To reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of the disease rake up the leaves from bellow the tree in the autumn. Follow a spray programme in the spring with a drench as soon as the leaves appear, a second after the flowers have fallen and a third two weeks after that.