

PEST: Sweet Orange Scab (*Elsinoe australis*)

BASIC PROFILE: SOS is a fungal disease affecting citrus fruit. It was found recently in Texas and Louisiana. It is similar to ‘common citrus scab’ found in Louisiana but attacks mainly fruit. Damage is cosmetic but the problem affects marketability of citrus fruit. SOS causes wart-like pustules on the fruit giving it a corky appearance. Symptoms can vary depending on host plant and age of the fruit. Scabs are gray to tan in color. Only young fruit is attacked. SOS needs moist conditions to reproduce and is spread by rain splash, wind and over longer distances by man-assisted movement of infected material. It does well in warm, wet climates.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF and USDA will conduct visual inspections of citrus fruit at high-risk locations in the state. SOS inspections will be added as part of a larger, citrus-producing state survey for various citrus pests. Inspection sites may include citrus groves, back yard citrus trees and retail marketplace sites where citrus fruit is sold. If suspect fruit is found, samples will be taken to confirm SOS. Regulatory action may be taken to reduce or eliminate the possibility of spreading the disease. If federal quarantines are in place, they will be followed. A number of fungicides are known to be effective in controlling citrus scab when applied at, or shortly before, bloom.

