



Priority pest: Citrus canker



Citrus canker
(*Xanthomonas axonopodis* subsp. *citri*)



The disease and its impacts

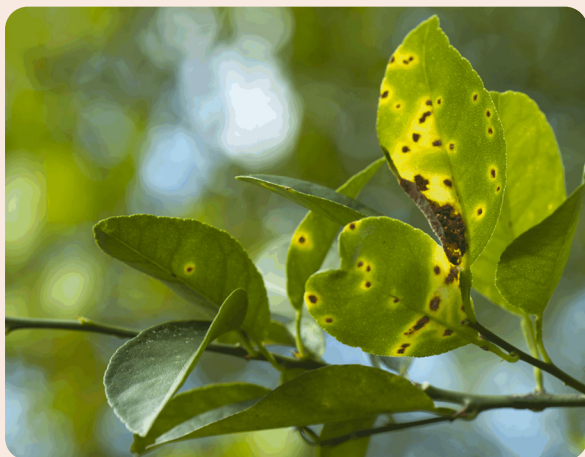
Citrus canker is a highly damaging citrus crop disease. Present throughout Asia and South America, successfully eradicated in Australia several times, most recently in Western Australia in 2019 and Northern Territory in 2021.

The exotic disease leads to defoliation, twig dieback, blemished fruit, and premature fruit drop. In severe cases, it can cause tree death. All commercial citrus varieties can be affected, as well as related native species including finger lime.

Bacteria infect citrus plants by entering wounds and natural openings on leaves, growing shoots and fruit. Long distance spread occurs via movement of infected plant material, and contaminated clothing and equipment.



What to look for



- Bright yellow spots on the underside of the leaf followed by raised brownish lesions on both sides of the leaves.



- Crater-like lesions on the fruit, surrounded by an oily, water-soaked margin or yellow halo.
- Lesions may be scattered or several lesions can occur together in an irregular pattern.



- Warty lesions that are light to dark brown.
- These cankers are raised and corky, eventually becoming dry and scabby.



- Brown, raised and corky lesions on branches.
- These lesions vary in size from 5-10mm. Stem symptoms can indicate a long-term infection.

How you can help: look, act, report

Inspect trees for small, round blister-like formations on leaves, branches, stems, new shoots and fruit. Lesions can develop within days of infection. Report immediately any signs of citrus canker to provide the best chance of eradicating or containing this damaging disease.

Every report you send plays a part in protecting WA's agricultural industries, natural environment and lifestyle.



Report your observations

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