

Primefact

Freckle

September 2024, Primefact PUB24/854, first edition

Kevin Dodds, Development Officer – Temperate Fruits, Batlow, NSW

Jessica Fearnley, Development Officer – Temperate Fruits, Orange, NSW

Freckle (or scab) is a fungal disease caused by *Venturia carpophilum*. This disease affects stone fruit and is found in all growing regions, especially in warm, wet areas during the growing season.

Disease identification

Freckle infection on the fruit will appear as greenish–brown to black spots arising at the stem end, which can combine to form a greenish, velvety blotched area if the infection is severe. Symptoms on the leaves first appear as pale, green areas, which go dark brown as the disease progresses.

Damage

Damage from freckle can affect fruit growth and increase the incidence of cracks in the fruit, making it unmarketable. With severe infection, leaves can fall prematurely, reducing photosynthetic capacity and general tree decline.

Monitoring

Monitor weather conditions and take a preventative approach to controlling infection. Freckle is favoured by temperatures between 18 °C and 24 °C after rain.

Management

Cultural and physical: ensure there is adequate airflow throughout the canopy to increase the rate of drying after rain. Avoid planting in low-lying areas. Remove and destroy infected fruit.

Biological: there are no biological controls for freckle.

Chemical: spray programs for other key stone fruit diseases are likely to control freckle. However, there are fungicides registered to control freckle if a specific treatment is required.

Chemical: check the [APVMA PubCRIS database](https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris) for registered controls (<https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>).

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Dr Amanda Warren-Smith for her editorial and publication skills in producing this Primefact.



Communication and Extension for the Australian Cherry Industry



Department of Primary
Industries and Regional
Development

Hort
Innovation CHERRY
FUND



Cherries
The Victorian Cherry Association

Fruit Growers
Tasmania

© State of New South Wales through Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2024. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

ISSN: 1832-6668

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (September 2024) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.