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Powdery mildew

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Powdery mildew fungus overwinters in terminal buds, which open later than surrounding healthy buds in the spring. The fungus affects leaves, green shoots, flowers, and fruit. Symptoms first occur as white or gray lesions on infected leaves and shoots early in spring. New leaves and shoots are more susceptible than older growth. Infected leaves fold longitudinally, are abnormally narrow, and become brittle. Infected flowers open late, and are greenish-brown with white fungal growth, and are shriveled. Fruit can be stunted and russeted by the fungus.



Powdery mildew stunting and russetting on fruit.

Additional information

- For more monitoring information and evaluation of available pesticides: [Michigan Fruit Management Guide](#)
- [A Practical Guide to Scouting Apple Orchards](#) – a DVD showing how to scout apple orchards.
- [MSU Diagnostic Services](#) for assistance in pest identification.
- [MSU Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert](#) newsletters for current pest/crop conditions.

This information was developed from [A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Michigan Apples](#) by David Epstein, Larry J. Gut and George W. Sundin. Purchase this in a pocket-sized guide for reference in the orchard from [MSU Extension](#) (publication E-2720).

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09/22/08 Funding support: [Project GREEN](#), the [Michigan Apple Committee](#) and the [MSU IPM Program](#). Download [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view pdf files.



Partial support from [NC-IPM Center](#).

Web developer: [J.N. Landis](#).