

## UC Pest Management Guidelines

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### AVOCADO

### AVOCADO BLACK STREAK

Pathogen: possibly a viroid  
(Reviewed: 7/01, updated: 7/99)

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#### SYMPTOMS

Avocado black streak appears after prolonged periods of environmental or cultural stress. An affected tree usually declines gradually and may eventually die, or it may collapse rapidly. Fruit production is usually poor. Many of the symptoms of avocado black streak are similar to those that result from other causes; cankers on the trunk and branches, however, are quite characteristic. The canker has an accumulation of a dry, powdery, water-soluble sugar that exudes through minute cracks in the bark. In the absence of the powder, the canker is difficult to find. Cankers may range in size from very small to the greater part of the trunk and do not favor any side of the tree.

Scraping off the bark over the canker reveals shallow reddish brown areas that rarely extend into the cambium. These areas can often be removed easily by inserting a knife blade under them and prying upwards. Because trees die with very few lesions, the lesions appear to be the result of the disease and not the cause of tree death. Other symptoms of the disease include chlorosis, early bloom, branch die-back, leaf blotching, zinc deficiency, bunched growth, wilting of foliage, and rapid death of new growth.

#### COMMENTS ON THE DISEASE

Avocado black streak may occur wherever Guatemalan varieties are grown in California. All ages of trees are affected and symptoms have been observed on trees as young as 1 year to over 35 years old. All groves in an area will not have the disease, and avocado black streak incidence varies considerably within affected groves.

#### COMMENTS ON CONTROL

Current management of avocado black streak consists of maintaining plant health with good fertilizer and water practices, and preventing stress.

#### **PRECAUTIONS**

#### PUBLICATION

UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Avocado



UC ANR Publication 3436

Diseases

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