

UC Pest Management Guidelines

AVOCADO DOTHIORELLA CANKER

Pathogen: *Dothiorella gregaria*
(Reviewed: 7/01, updated: 7/01)

IN THIS GUIDELINE:

[SYMPTOMS](#)

[COMMENTS ON THE DISEASE](#)

[COMMENTS ON CONTROL](#)

[PUBLICATION](#)

[GLOSSARY](#)



SYMPTOMS

The principal evidence of infection by *Dothiorella gregaria* is a white powder that exudes from the bark and a cracking and shedding of the outer bark. Affected trees sometimes gradually die back and look unthrifty; in unusually severe cases, the tree may be killed. Examination of the affected trunk or branches will show brownish discoloration of the bark that is quite shallow; the bark flakes off easily.

COMMENTS ON THE DISEASE

This type of canker may appear on the trunk and branches of avocado trees. In general this type of canker is not as serious as those caused by *Phytophthora* spp. Trees that are stressed as a result of poor irrigation scheduling, nutritional deficiencies, or insect and mite feeding are more susceptible to this disease.

COMMENTS ON CONTROL

Mexican varieties are much more resistant to this disease than are Guatemalan varieties. The disease is favored by moist conditions. Do not let dead leaves and debris accumulate around the trunks or lower branches, particularly if the tree is on Guatemalan rootstock or if the scion is Guatemalan and the tree is budded low. Keeping trees thrifty and pest-free are keys to preventing disease development.

Correcting environmental and nutritional stresses and removing diseased limbs that exhibit dieback will control the disease.

PUBLICATION



UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Avocado
UC ANR Publication 3436

Diseases

B. A. Faber, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Barbara/Ventura counties

L. J. Marais, Plant Pathology, UC Riverside