



Fig. 9. Scab spots on peaches, showing the cracking that often develops when the spots are numerous.

and is not effectively controlled by sprays. It has not yet become serious in central Florida areas. Trees with good fertilization are less susceptible to bacterial spot than are under-fertilized ones.

Brown rot has not been a very serious problem on early peaches in central Florida, probably due to the characteristically dry climate in April and May. It can be quite serious in northern Florida in springs that are wet, for at this time the late-ripening cultivars grown for local use are reaching maturity.

Rust can be one of the more serious diseases in central Florida. Severe defoliation has occurred by mid-summer in some instances and undoubtedly weakens the trees. In northern Florida infection usually does not appear until late summer or fall, as it does in Georgia and South Carolina where the disease is considered of minor importance. Sprays of zinc sulfate-lime, 4-4-100 for control of zinc deficiency helps to control rust. Sulfur has some control value. If desired, Zineb may be used at 2 lbs per 100 gallons.

Mushroom root rot is a fungus disease often present in newly cleared red oak land. There is no practical control, other than planting on sites relatively free of decaying oak roots. Peach trees wilt suddenly, usually starting about their third year in the orchard. Cutting through the bark at and just below the ground line discloses a thin white fungus growth between the bark and wood. This white growth may be visible on only one side of the tree or may completely encircle the tree.

Phony peach caused by a bacterium occurs in all established peach growing regions in Florida. It is introduced in nursery stocks, in infected budwood, or through wild hosts. Phony is found in wild plum trees in Florida but causes no observable damage to these plums. When transmit-