

AVOCADO DISEASES

By H. E. STEVENS

The production of avocados on a commercial scale is rapidly gaining prominence in those localities in Florida where the trees can be safely grown. Increasing interest is being manifested in the planting and production of this fruit. More information is desired in regard to the following: Those varieties best suited for commercial plantings, best cultural practices, use of fertilizers, and insects and diseases affecting the crop. Much information on these subjects which would be of value to the avocado grower, if it were brought together, now exists in various publications.

The object of this bulletin is to bring together the available information on avocado diseases which may be of practical use to the avocado grower of Florida. The greater part of the information contained herein is the result of personal investigations and observations. Other sources have been drawn on and credit given them.

AVOCADO SCAB

Cladosporium citri, Massee

This is a disease of the foliage and fruit of the avocado that has developed in Florida within the last few years. It is closely related to citrus scab and, since the two diseases have many points in common, it has been designated Avocado Scab.

The disease was first called to the writer's attention during the spring of 1916 by W. J. Krome of Redland, Dade County. A few specimens were sent in to the laboratory but the brief, preliminary study made of the disease at that time resulted in nothing of interest.

In the summer of 1917 further reports and specimens of the disease were received from Dade County, and the disease appeared to be confined chiefly to young seedling avocados. A field study of scab was made during the fall and winter of 1917, in cooperation with the State Plant Board, in an effort to determine the extent of the disease and something of its nature. The new disease was found more or less widely scattered thru the seedling plantings in the county, especially in the nurseries. It was observed on the foliage and fruit of bearing seedling trees and on some of the budded varieties in the nurseries where scab