

ferent from black spot in many respects altho the two diseases generally are found together on the same fruit, occurring under similar conditions. Blotch easily may be mistaken by one unfamiliar with the two diseases for the initial stage of black spot.

Blotch usually appears on the fruit sometime in advance of black spot and on individual seedling trees it has been observed to be more abundant and more serious. As yet it has not been observed on the fruit of budded varieties. This disease was referred to previously as Avocado Blotch,⁴ a name suggestive of its general appearance. It is a fungous disease and has been found widely scattered on seedling avocado plantings along the lower East Coast. Blotch is responsible for a large percentage of inferior or low grade fruit and severe attacks may result in the greater part of the crop's becoming unfit to ship. The disease is confined chiefly to the rind of the fruit which it makes unsightly in appearance and indirectly opens the way for other organisms that may enter and cause a decay of the meat. Blotch in itself does not penetrate far beneath the rind and causes no decay of the meat.

While the disease has caused considerable loss of seedling fruit in seasons past, it can be controlled readily, if steps are taken in time. It is useless to spray after the disease appears on the fruit.

APPEARANCE

Blotch is a surface spotting of seedling avocado fruit which is most noticeable as the fruit approaches maturity. The first spots may occur when the fruit is less than half grown, after which a succession of spots will follow until the surface is nearly covered. Mature blotch spots appear as small, slightly sunken, irregular blotches on the surface of the fruit, usually black in color, but often showing a short, white fungous growth at the centers.

Fully developed blotch spots may vary from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in diameter. The beginning of such a spot is indicated by a pale, green area, showing one or more brown or black dots which are smaller than a pin's head. Gradually the pale green area becomes brownish to black in color, and eventually develops into an irregular sunken pit or spot which is

⁴H. E. Stevens: Some Diseases of the Avocado and other Subtropical Fruits, Fla. Sta. Hort. Soc. Proc., 1920.