

CITRUS CANKER

Citrus canker disease is currently affecting citrus orchards in Australia, Brazil and the United States. Plants infected with the disease have lesions on the leaves, stems, and fruit. The disease impedes the development of fruits and causes them to drop prematurely. Citrus canker is not harmful to humans as infected fruit is safe to eat; however, they become too unsightly to be sold on the fresh markets. Severe infections can cause defoliation, twig dieback and general tree decline.

The Ministry of Agriculture is mindful of the proximity of the disease to the island and has put in place quarantine measures.

How does Citrus Canker spread?

The canker lesions ooze *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (Xac) bacterial cells. The bacteria cells are then transferred to other plants by windblown rain. The disease is also spread through contaminated equipment and clothing, as well as by the transport of infected or apparently healthy plants.

Citrus Fruits Response to Canker Disease

HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	MODERATELY SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	RESISTANT
Grapefruit	Sour Orange	Mandarins	Citron
Sweet Orange cultivars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hamlin ▪ Navel ▪ Pineapple 	Other Sweet orange cultivars	Tangerines	Calamondin
Swingle citrumelo	Lemon	Persian/Tahiti Lime	Kumquat
Key/Mexican Lime	Orlando Tangelo		
Trifoliolate citrus & hybrids used for rootstocks	Pummelo		



Lesions on back and top of leaves



Canker lesions on fruit



Twig die-back from stem infection.

If you think you might have infected trees, contact the relevant authorities listed below:

Research and Development Division
Bodles Agricultural Research Station
Old Harbour
983-2281
983-2267
bodlesresearch@moa.gov.jm

Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
Hope Gardens (6)
977-1158
977-1161
(or visit the nearest RADA office to you)