

## Sooty Blotch and Flyspeck

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**Sooty blotch** (SB) and **flyspeck** (FS) are two common summer fungal diseases of apples in Minnesota. The two diseases often occur together. They are confined to the fruit surface and develop best under conditions of high rainfall and humidity.

SB is caused by a disease complex, and appears as sooty or cloudy lesions (blotches) on the fruit surface. **SB lesions** are brown to olive-green with indefinite or irregular outlines. Appearance can vary from sooty smudge-like colonies to much darker colonies with many small circular mycelial clumps. **FS lesions** appear on the fruit as sharply defined small, shiny black dots (specks) in groups of a few to 100 or more.



*Infected fruit showing SB*



*FS lesions  
(numerous black dots)*

Infection may begin immediately after petal fall, but is usually controlled by fungicides applied for apple scab control. Symptoms do not usually appear in conventional orchards until late summer after apple scab sprays have been discontinued. Honeygold and Fireside are two of the more susceptible Minnesota cultivars.

Damage to fruit is usually superficial. Losses by both diseases are due to a reduction in the fruit's aesthetic quality (appearance) and subsequent market value.