

## EVALUATION OF SULFUR-BASED FUNGICIDES FOR SCAB CONTROL ON PEACHES

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Peach scab is a common fungal disease of peaches in Alabama resulting in spotted and scarred fruit and reduced fruit quality. This test was conducted to evaluate various cover spray programs using Microthiol Disperss, a sulfur-based fungicide. These programs were compared to the Alabama peach industry standards of Wettable Sulfur 90 W and Captan 50 WP for scab control on peaches. Results from this study indicate that Microthiol Disperss at rates from 6 to 10 pounds per acre and in a tank-mix or rotational program with Captan 50 WP controlled scab as well as Wettable sulfur at 9 pounds per acre. The Microthiol Disperss/Captan tank-mix treatment and the Microthiol Disperss/Captan rotation treatments also performed as well as Captan 50 WP 5 pounds per acre in controlling scab.

This experiment was conducted at the Chilton Research and Extension Center in Clanton, Alabama, in 2002. The test consisted of seven treatments replicated five times in a randomized complete block design. All treatments including the control received two Bravo Weatherstik applications at petal fall and shuck split and preharvest applications of Orbit at standard rates. There were a total of eight cover sprays applied for each treatment. Forty fruit were collected from each two-tree replication at harvest and evaluated for incidence and marketability (disease severity) of scab. Fruit were stored at 75°F for seven days then rated for the postharvest fungal diseases brown rot and Rhizopus rot.

All fungicide treatments performed significantly better than the unsprayed control (see table). Scab incidence ranged from

**EFFECT OF FUNGICIDE SPRAY PROGRAMS ON SCAB INCIDENCE, CLANTON, 2002**

Treatment rate per acre <sup>1</sup>	Fruit with scab (%)	Marketable fruit (%)
Unsprayed control	37.5	81.5
Microthiol Disperss 10 lb	3.5	98.5
Microthiol Disperss 6 lb	5.0	98.5
Microthiol Disperss 3 lb + Captan 50 WP 3.0 lb	0.5	100.0
Captan 50 WP 5.0 lb rotated with Microthiol Disperss <sup>2</sup>	0.5	100.0
Wettable sulfur 90 WP 9 lb	4.5	100.0
Captan 50 WP 5 lb	0.5	99.5

<sup>1</sup> Each treatment received eight cover sprays.

<sup>2</sup> Captan was used in cover sprays 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Microthiol Disperss was used in sprays 2, 4, 6, and 8.

0.5 to 5.0% among the fungicide treatments. Treatments that used Captan 50 WP had slightly lower levels of scab incidence than programs that used Microthiol Disperss or Wettable sulfur alone full season. There were no significant differences among the fungicide programs in fruit marketability, and all produced significantly more marketable fruit than the unsprayed control. There were no differences in brown rot or Rhizopus rot control among the treatments, including the unsprayed control (data not shown).