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The Conidia Divide

Posted by [Michael Phillips](#)

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[The Conidia Divide](#)

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Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

Apple scab overwinters in one of two ways, depending on location. Growers in all zones are subject to pseudothecia (ascospore sacs) forming on fallen leaves . . . and subsequent spring wetting that leads to a possible infection event. Fall hygiene practices aimed at decomposing leaves sets back inoculum levels to the extent that protective and/or immune boosting sprays need not necessarily start till the open cluster stage. All this changes significantly for growers in warmer zones where conidia (secondary spores) can overwinter in bud crevices. Now it becomes vital to impact inoculum levels on the tree and not just down below on the ground. The "fatty acid knockdown" is a holistic means of undoing the lipid coating of such secondary spores, setting such up for the microbe-consuming-microbe action of a follow-up spray of effective microbes and/or compost tea.

Here's what I would like to establish: Where is it that apple scab conidia can overwinter in the buds? This absolutely happens in Mendocino County in California at Tim Bates' Apple Farm and for the McColl's [Kalangadoo Orchard](#) in South Australia. But how about in Missouri or in North Carolina? This divide of a sort makes it necessary for growers in warmer places to adopt a more involved approach to dormant scab dynamics. Extension rarely points out this distinction. And frankly, many more growers are going to be experiencing warm winter "extras" as the climate continues to veer. This is not unlike the line that defines curculio reality along an east-west continuum. Your contributions here will help us determine how to shape recommendations for growers that don't get to experience the benefits of true winter.

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

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