Scab is the most important disease of firethorn (*Pyracantha*). Scab disease on firethorn fruits occurs almost every summer and is visible on infected fruits throughout the fall and winter. The normal orange or red color of the healthy clusters of fruit, desired in the landscape, is converted to dark brown or black by scab, thus reducing the landscape value of firethorn. In severe cases, infected fruit may drop. The disease also causes leaf spotting, yellowing, and premature defoliation, as well as small twig cankers.

The fungus *Spilocaea pyracanthae* (*Venturia inaequalis*), a close relative of the apple scab fungus, is the cause of pyracantha scab. The fungus overwinters on infected leaves and twigs.

**Disease Management**

Prune, rake and remove infected fruit, leaves and cankered branches in the fall. Effective control can be achieved through regular fungicide applications. It is too late to control the disease when it is first observed on the leaves or fruit. Normally, preventive sprays of chlorothalonil, ferbam, maneb, captan, or thiophanate-methyl are used to control the disease. Sprays should be applied in the spring at bud break and at 7 to 10 day intervals until 2 weeks after petal fall.