Pests of Apple Fruit
Of Bugs & Blights

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APPLE SCAB*
- fungus lesions with zones
- small to large, roughly circular spots
- cracking occurs in severe infections

RUSSETING*
- smooth russetting at calyx end may be due to rust mite

APPLE MAGGOT
- maggot without a definite head capsule
- shallow mines on apple surface
- "worm" tunnels through fleshy portion, brownish rot follows

BULL'S EYE ROT
- margin darker than surrounding tissue
- brown spongy tissue beneath spot

BITTER PIT*
- physiological disorder
- caused by localized calcium deficiency
- pits are only surface deep & don't penetrate fruit
- some varieties more susceptible

CODDLING MOTH*
- caterpillar with definite head capsule
- frass on outside of fruit
- "worm" heads for center of fruit

CODDLING MOTH*
- small distorted fruit
- accompanying leaves may be curled, distorted or yellow
- confined to fruit spur

APPLE ANTHRACNOSE*
- small circular light brown areas with spongy brown tissue beneath; slowly enlarge in storage
- small bumps (spores) may form in the center

SAN JOSE SCALE*
- fungus infection

BITTER ROT
- gray-white scale in slight depression
- reddish discoloration on skin
- watch for scales on bark of twigs and branches

LEAF ROLLERS or CUTWORMS*
- external injury includes deep holes and/or bumps or craters of callused old injury
- reduces grade

PANDEMIS LEAF ROLLER
- tiny pinholes
- some webbing may remain

FRUIT DROP
- no seed inside shrivelled fruit
- lack of pollination due to:
  - lack of cross-pollinizer
  - spring frost
  - lack of bees to carry pollen
  - too cold for bees to fly

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**Bugs**  
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**VIRUS or BORON DEFICIENCY**
- small fruit with irregular sunken "scars"

**BUCKSKIN = SUNBURN**
- bronzed area on young fruit due to too much sun on fruit  
- usually on surface which is at right angle to sun  
- lowers grade

**OYSTERSHELL SCALE**
- minor damage to fruit  
- reduces grade  
- watch for clusters at branch nodes on bark trunk

**PANSY SPOT = THRIPS**
- caused by egg puncture of a thrip  
- faintly discolored area around egg  
- reduces grade

**HONEYDEW DROPS**
- droplets of sticky honeydew produced by woolly apple aphid or other sucking insects

**RUSSERTING**
- spidery corky tissue  
- causes include weather, sprays, powdery mildew (may also cause cracking), honeydew, etc.  
- some varieties russet more easily than others

**BALLS AND BURLAPS**
- sudden growth after a period of slow growth that allowed skin to toughen such as sudden abundant water after a long dry spell

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**HEALTHY FRUIT**
- size color and shape typical for the variety  
- lack of blemishes and perfection of fruit qualifies it for fancy and thus top price (such is the marketplace)

* Denotes fairly common problems in Washington State. There may be considerable variation in local regions.