

## **Sweet Potato Scab** **(*Elsinoe batatas* [Sawada] Viegas & Jenkins)**

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**S**weet potato scab (*Elsinoe batatas* [Sawada] Viegas and Jenkins) of the leaf and stem is considered the most severe disease of sweet potato in the CNMI where it has been observed particularly on the Konabe variety, especially during the rainy season. The disease is common in Asia and on many Pacific islands.

The disease is caused by a fungus. The first symptoms are small, brown lesions on the veins of the leaves. As the disease progresses, the lesions become corky in texture and result in distortion, causing the leaves to curl and fail to expand normally. Stem lesions are slightly raised with rusty brown spots. A scablike structure forms on the stems as the spots join.

### **Control**

Little is known about controlling this disease. The use of resistant varieties where available is suggested. Propagation material should be carefully inspected. Only disease-free cuttings should be used, and crop rotation should be practiced. A new field should not be planted in the same place where an earlier field had much scab damage. Sanitation practices, removing and destroying infected leaves and stems as soon as possible, help keep the disease in check.

For additional information about this disease, consult an Extension Agent at your local land grant institution.

\*Replaces Agricultural Pests of the Pacific Series, ADAP 91-3.



**Scab of Sweet Potato**



### **For Further Information:**

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