

Corky Scab

Some samples of epiphyllum stems with red spots were submitted to the County of San Diego agriculture department for analysis. The diagnosis was as follows:

“No primary plant pathogens were found on the samples. This looks like corky scab, a physiological condition that occurs under low light/high humidity and rapid temperature change conditions.”

An online search for corky scab found this information:

- It is a form of edema, a common non-infectious disease, where something has stimulated an abnormal increase in the size of the cells.
- It is thought to be the result of overwatering, low temperatures, and poor ventilation.
- Avoid fertilizing in fall and winter, and do not use fertilizer with high nitrogen content.
- Cacti are very susceptible to edema.
- The small edema spots generally do little damage to plants, but detract considerably from the appearance.



So no there is need to dispose of a plant because it has red spots.

It has been my experience that the branches will remain blemished but will put out unblemished growth. However enough time has not passed to be sure this will be the case. It will take at least one other blooming season in order to get a feeling if this will be the case for most plants.