

Backyard: Pests of Ripening Fruit

August 26, 2016



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News/ What to Watch For:

There is still time to collect foliage for nutrient analysis by the USU Analytical Lab (www.usual.usu.edu)

Spider mites will continue to be active through the end of the month, and then will begin migrating to ground cover for overwintering

Protect peaches from late season **coryneum blight** infection (shown at right) if rain is predicted.

- Backyard growers, apply fungicide before rain; use Captan or Spectracide Immunox

Continue to carefully irrigate trees through the next several weeks



JUST THE BASICS

APPLE AND PEAR

- Continue protecting fruit from *codling moth* through Sept. 15

PEACH/NECTARINE

- Continue protecting fruit from *peach twig borer* through Sept. 15
- Continue protecting lower trunk from *greater peach twig borer* through early October[`/mks_one_half`]

WALNUT

- Continue protecting walnuts from walnut husk fly until one month before harvest

Backyard Grower Information

APPLE/PEAR

Codling Moth

Hosts: apple/pear

We are still trapping codling moth, and in some areas, weekly catches are high. The recommended time to stop treatments is September 15. The reason for this arbitrary timing is that codling moth can “sense” shorter day length. They are naturally “forced” into a resting stage called diapause starting in late August, and by mid-September, much of codling moth activity has ceased. You might consider one last treatment to maintain protection for these last 3 weeks.

PEACH/NECTARINE

Pests of Ripening Fruit

Hosts: peach/nectarine

Many peach varieties are being harvested now, which means that pests are attracted to ripening fruit are becoming more apparent, including boxelder bugs, earwigs, European paper wasps, and sap beetles. One of the best tools for managing these pests is to harvest fruit quickly as it ripens, or even just before fully ripe. Keep an eye on the ripest peaches on the trees to see if any of these pests are present.

Boxelder Bugs

Boxelder bugs feed with piercing-sucking mouthparts, and can cause fruit flesh to dry out or can introduce decay bacteria or fungi.



boxelder bugs feed in clusters due to a pheromone that causes them to form large aggregations

Earwigs

Earwigs are a perennial problem in ripening peaches, as they are concentrated in irrigated areas. Once the fruit softens, they will enter not only through existing openings, but will chew their own holes, leaving deep pits. Earwig damage is usually easy to diagnose because they leave behind black dots of excrement on the fruit surface.



earwigs often feed near the stem end where they can hide

Controlling adults can be difficult due to their limited exposure to surface-applied insecticides. Carbaryl (Sevin) or Spinosad have both shown good control for earwigs. Either product should be applied just before the peach fruits start to soften.

European Paper Wasp

Wasps usually seek out fruit that is already damaged, and suck out juices. To deal with European paper wasps, make a homemade trap by cutting the top third from a plastic soda bottle and inverting it into the bottom portion. Punch a hole on each side and tie on string for hanging. Add a mixture of 1 part fruit juice 10 parts water plus 1 tsp liquid detergent to keep the wasps in the water. Adding a bit of ripened fruit will make it even more attractive.



homemade paper wasp traps can be quite effective

Sap Beetles

Sap beetles are opportunistic insects that can enter peaches through tiny openings, primarily caused by split pits or soft sutures. The smallest openings (which would occur at the stem end in the case of split pits) or overripe fruit are all the invitation that is needed. When the fruit is handled, the beetles will scurry out.



sap beetles are tiny insects with clubbed antennae; they are attracted to overripe fruits or they enter fruit through openings

As these insects travel in and out of fruit, they introduce fungi into the fruit, causing it to decay.

Treatment Options for Pests of Ripening Peaches

The best control measure for pests of ripening fruit is good sanitation. Any damaged, splitting, or overripe fruit should be pulled from the tree and dropped to the ground immediately to encourage decomposition.

If there is a problem with large numbers of any of these pests during harvest, there are two insecticide options. Both options require contact with the target pest.

- pyrethrin (Prentox Pyronyl Crop Spray, Pyrellin, Pyganic, Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray, Natural

Guard Neem Spray, etc.): 0-day PHI

- Sevin, 3-day PHI

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