Peach Problems at Harvest

August 24, 2020

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APPLE, PEAR INFORMATION

Codling Moth

Keep fruit protected up until September 15. Around that time, codling moths respond to the shorter day length by converting their resources to overwinter survival.

White Apple Leafhopper

White apple leafhopper feeding damage is concentrated around leaf veins.

Where present, feeding damage from the second generation of leafhopper nymphs is visible on the foliage. A mix of nymphs and adults are active on the undersides of leaves. If your trees had a high population of the first generation, keep in mind that leafhopper adults can be a nuisance while picking. If needed, treat now if you have not already treated.

Note that feeding on the foliage will not affect apple yield or tree health.

Treatment

- Backyard growers can use 1% oil, insecticidal soap, Safer BioNeem. Be sure to thoroughly cover the undersides of the leaves.
- Options for commercial growers: click here.

PEACH/NECTARINE INFORMATION

Greater Peachtree Borer (For Backyard Growers)

Continue to maintain protection of the lower trunk of peach/nectarine and apricot (where necessary) with your last treatment around September 15 (so that the trunk is protected through Oct 15). When you spray, be sure to move mulch or weeds away from the trunk (or even excess soil).

Treatment

- Backyard growers can use Hi Yield Permethrin, Sevin, Spectracide Triazicide, or for organic control, products containing spinosad.

Coryneum Blight and Brown Rot (For Commercial Growers)


Late-season coryneum infection showing depressed, circular lesions with black fruiting bodies.


Brown rot infection showing fast

progression of shriveled peach skin and
flesh, and white spores.

Coryneum infections that happen as fruit is ripening are more severe than early-season infections. Sometimes, the damage will not show up until after harvest.

Brown rot is a disease that has occurred sporadically in some parts of northern Utah, on very late varieties during times of heavy, wind-blown rain.

Thankfully, the peach-harvest weather has been dry so far, and there is little chance of rain in the next ten days. However, northern Utah can typically expect to see some monsoonal rains late in the peach growing season.

Protection against late season infections on ripening fruit is particularly important where there is a history of these diseases. During the three to four weeks before harvest, be diligent about monitoring your fruit, and apply a protection ***before*** a forecasted rainfall. Some products do have curative effects, and will work after a rainfall.

For coryneum blight, at least 4 hours of warm-weather rainfall is needed to cause infections. For brown rot, the fungal spores require a wound on the fruit to enter, which may be caused by strong wind+rain events. For both diseases, new infections are visible on maturing fruit in a matter of 2 to 5 days, and most often, render the fruit unmarketable. Additional infections can spread rapidly within an orchard or individual tree.

Treatment

Fungicide	Group	PHI	Also Controls	Efficacy	Resistance Risk
Topsin M (thiphanate-methyl)	1	1	powdery mildew	excellent	High
Indar (fenbuconazole)	3	0	powdery mildew	excellent	High
Rally (myclobutanil)	3	0	powdery mildew	good	High
Spectracide Immunox (myclobutanil) (Home use)	3	0	powdery mildew	good	High
Fontelis (penthiopyrad)	7	0	powdery mildew	good	High
Vangard (cyprodinil)	9	2		good	High
Gem (trifloxystrobin)	11	1	powdery mildew	good	High
Quilt Xcel (propiconazole + azoxystrobin)	3/11	0	powdery mildew	excellent	Medium
Pristine (boscalid + pyraclostrobin)	7/11	0	powdery mildew	excellent	Medium
Captan (captan) (Home use)	M4	0		fair	Low

Peach Problems Seen at Harvest

Peach harvest is on, and we've seen a variety of fruit damage, ranging from wind injury, powdery mildew, coryneum blight, earwigs, birds, and more. Check out the photo gallery to identify what you may be seeing during harvest.

Wind and rubbing damage

Wind and rubbing damage

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Wind and rubbing damage

Hail damage.

Silvering of peach flesh caused by thrips feeding.

Distorted nectarine caused by thrips feeding during bloom.

Possible green peach aphid damage to nectarine.

Corking of the interior flesh caused by cool post-bloom temperatures and a light crop.

Peach powdery mildew.

Russeting of the skin caused by an apple powdery mildew infection.

Late-season coryneum infections.

Soft rot initiated by insect feeding.

Soft flesh caused by walnut husk fly maggot feeding under the skin.

Earwigs create deep feeding holes. Note the black specks; they are excrement.

Peach twig borer feeding injury.

Damage caused by fruitworm caterpillar feeding on the peach.

Cat-facing injury caused by either lygus or stink bug feeding.

Peach pits that separate from the flesh are considered split pits.

Split pits can result in cracks along the peach suture.

Soft suture, caused by heavy watering after a long dry spell.

Gumming oozing from center of peach due to split pit.

Injury to peach flesh, followed by infection of brown rot.

Feeding damage from starlings, that peck deep into the flesh.