

Fire Blight, Coryneum Blight, Codling Moth Biofixes, Leafhopper

April 16, 2004

*****Disease Advisory*****

FIRE BLIGHT: Remember that blossom infection is the primary means by which the fire blight bacterium enters apple and pear trees at this time of year. An open flower is an infection site, and most apple or pear trees in northern Utah are now flowering. The cold weather over the last week has slowed the development and spread of the bacterium. Sherm Thomson and Scott Ockey have determined that very few orchards in Utah County have the fire blight bacterium present (and the growers were notified). Sprays will probably NOT be necessary in apple or pear orchards that don't have a history of problems with fire blight. However, a spray might be advisable this weekend if an orchard has fire blight cankers and receives rain. Streptomycin is available to both commercial and backyard growers. Oxytetracycline is also very effective but isn't available for backyard use. Sprays should be made immediately before or after rain. Cankers should be pruned out as soon as possible (18" below the infection).

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: Fungicide applications should continue through terminal bud set. Bayleton, Sulfur, Rally, Rubigan, Funginex, and Procure, among many other materials, are usually effective. Homeowners should be able to find Bayleton and sulfur formulations at local retail outlets. The rains this weekend will likely allow powdery mildew to germinate and spread if it hasn't already.

CHERRY POWDERY MILDEW: The fungus that causes cherry powdery mildew is different from the species that infects apples. The species that infects cherries spends the winter as cleistothecia (spore bundles) on the tree scaffold branches (in bark cracks and crotches) and generally requires more heat and moisture than apple powdery mildew before it infects the cherry tree. Scouting for the earliest powdery lesions in the coming weeks will help determine if a spray is necessary. Generally, tart cherries are much more susceptible than sweets.

CORYNEUM BLIGHT (Shothole): Shuck-split applications of chlorothalonil (Daconil for homeowners, Bravo for commercial growers), captan, or Ziram should provide good protection if a grower has a history of problems with this fungus.

APPLE SCAB: All the rains this weekend may allow for an apple scab infection. Apple scab is rare in Utah, but it does exist and will germinate with sufficient heat and moisture. With average daily temperatures in the low 50s, the fungus will likely need 12-14 hours of constant leaf wetness to germinate. If you've had a problem with scab in the past, pay close attention to how long your trees have to dry between rain events. Usually a couple hours is enough for leaves to dry out.

*****Insect Advisory*****

CODLING MOTH: Codling moths have arrived. Multiple moths have been caught in Utah County (Provo), Weber County (N. Ogden, Pleasant View), and Boxelder County (Perry and Willard). If growers are intending to use mating disruption, now is the time to get the dispensers up. As soon as you have your biofix (2 or more moths within a week, assuming dusk temperatures are above 55 degrees), put up the dispensers. Continue to check traps to verify that the disruption is working. For

growers not using mating disruption, an application around petal-fall (or soon thereafter) of an ovicidal material such as methoxyfenozide (Intrepid) or horticultural oil (1% dilution) may be helpful.

WHITE APPLE LEAFHOPPERS: Young nymphal white apple leafhoppers were found in small numbers in Perry apples (none in Davis or Utah Counties). Beat-samples will help you monitor your trees for the presence of this pest, as well as many others such as lygus, aphids, and campylocoma.

Precautionary Statement: All pesticides have benefits and risks, however following the label will maximize the benefits and reduce risks. Pay attention to the directions for use and follow precautionary statements. Pesticide labels are considered legal documents containing instructions and limitations. Inconsistent use of the product or disregarding the label is a violation of both federal and state laws. The pesticide applicator is legally responsible for proper use. Any mention of a pesticide brand in this document is not an endorsement by USU, and brand lists are not all-inclusive.