

Fire Blight, Powdery Mildew, Apple Scab, Peach Twig Borer Traps

April 23, 2004

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

FIRE BLIGHT: The warm weather being forecast for next week may have implications for fire blight management in all northern Utah apple orchards. Most apples are at or near full bloom which means they will be vulnerable to infection well into next week (April 25th-30th). Highs in the 70s and lows in the mid-40s are expected to arrive by Monday, and they will likely produce average daily temperatures of 60+ degrees. Such warmth will raise the risk of infection for apple trees with any open blossoms.

If you or your neighbors have had fire blight in the recent past, then the risk of infection next week would be HIGH. If any wetting event occurs (dew, rain, irrigation, and even a spray), then an infection could take place and a treatment with a bactericide would be wise. Even if fire blight has not been a problem in the past, the warmth coupled with likely dew (or rain by Thursday) will provide the right conditions for infection.

Mycoshield (oxytetracycline) or Agrimycin (streptomycin) are effective bactericides, preferably applied before wetting events. Past research has shown that a spray applied immediately following a wetting event will provide less control.

The recent rainy and gusty conditions may have also facilitated shoot blight. Rain-splatter distributes the fire blight bacteria throughout the tree canopy, and wind damage provides the entry points for the bacteria. Close monitoring in the coming weeks will reveal whether shoot blight is emerging. Most pears have set seed and should not be vulnerable to blossom infection, though "rat tail blooms" and shoot blight can still be a problem.

APPLE SCAB: Scab models have not indicated a serious threat of infection at the sites monitored in Boxelder, Davis, and Utah Counties. However, there may be areas of the tree canopy that are slower to dry, and if scab was a recent problem, germination of the fungus may have been possible after so many days of rain. Monitor for leaf symptoms.

PEACH POWDERY MILDEW: Most peaches in northern Utah are at petal-fall or early shuck-split. Shuck-split or shuck-fall applications of various fungicides will control powdery mildew. Chlorothalonil (Daconil or Bravo) will suppress powdery mildew as well as shothole.

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: The recent rains have likely helped spores germinate and spread. It is a good idea to maintain a sustained mildew suppression program because the fungicides function primarily as preventative materials, not eradicants.

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

PEACH TWIG BORER: Traps for this moth should probably go up early next week. We should catch the first moths by the following week, depending as always on the weather.

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.