

Hanging Traps, Noctuid Moths, Aphids, Fire Blight

April 27, 2005

CODLING MOTH: Traps should be set sometime this week in all northern Utah locations. As previously mentioned, at least two traps should be set at any given site (unless it's just a backyard scenario). To increase the chance of getting an accurate biofix (= first moths caught at a site), try to set 1 trap per 3-5 acres.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Early to late bloom (through petal fall) is an ideal time to target this pest of peaches, nectarines, and plums. Bt, in particular, is a very effective and non-disruptive insecticide for PTB, as are Success and Dimilin. Weather forecasts indicate intermittent rain over the next week, so if growers are intending to put on a bloomtime or petal fall spray, perhaps waiting a bit would be best (or just wait another day for the forecasts to change).

GREEN PEACH APHIDS: These aphids are ever-present and are often fed upon heavily by a variety of predators such as lacewing larvae, lady beetles, and hoverfly larvae (all of which have been found in Utah peach orchards). However, tremendous aphid populations (100+ per beat-sample or 4-10 nymphs per leaf) present a difficult situation because it may be a while before the aphids are reined in by predators. In the meantime, the first leaves of the season, as well as some of the fruit, will be fed upon heavily and ultimately deformed. Given the high aphid numbers seen at sites in Washington and Utah Counties, it is highly recommended that growers monitor their aphid and predator populations at this time. High green peach aphid populations might warrant a spray with insecticidal soap (M-Pede, Safer's) before leaves become curled upon themselves (contorted leaves shield aphids that are feeding within). Alternatively, growers who will be spraying for peach twig borer, powdery mildew, and/or coryneum blight at shuck-split may want to consider tank-mixing insecticides that suppress aphids as well as twig borers (eg, Bt + narrow range oil, Success + narrow range oil, or Asana).

NOCTUID MOTHS (Cutworms, Green Fruitworms): Observations of large, grayish-brown moths visiting the flowers of peach, apricot, and cherry trees have been made by growers from Cache County to Utah County. These husky moths (3/4-inch long) are not codling moths or peach twig borers—they're adult cutworms and/or green fruitworms seeking nectar wherever they can find it. They are generally not a huge threat for tree fruit, though high populations of green fruitworm caterpillars in an apple or cherry canopy can cause problems. In mid-spring (May), beat-samples of the tree canopy or observations of localized defoliation will indicate the presence of these pests. For now, don't worry about the adult moths.

PEAR PSYLLA: Adult psylla were found on pears in Kaysville. Eggs are being laid and nymphs can be expected soon, depending on weather. Beat-samples are a good way to monitor for this pest (backyard pear trees can be sampled using a light colored hand-held tray to catch the psylla adults as they drop out of the canopy when a branch is abruptly shaken).

CAMPYLOMMA BUGS: None have yet been found. Beat-samples are the best way to monitor for this insect.

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

FIRE BLIGHT: Cankers can still be easily spotted at this time. Pruning out cankers is the best way

to remove local sources of fire blight bacteria. However, the bacteria are readily dispersed by bees, flies, rain, and wind, so if fire blight has been a local problem, sprays during bloom may be warranted for susceptible varieties (eg, Gala, Jonathan, Jonagold, Ida Red). If susceptible pear and/or apple trees are in bloom, streptomycin or oxytetracycline applied right before a rain can help prevent infection. Modeling of fire blight infection probability in northern Utah indicates there is a low to moderate risk of infection through the end of the week (assuming forecasts are reasonably accurate).

CORYNEUM BLIGHT (Peach Shothole): A shuck-split or shuck-fall spray of Bravo (Daconil for home use), Abound, Captan, Ziram, or Pristine may be necessary in orchards where fall or delayed-dormant fungicide applications were not made. Most peach orchards in northern Utah are at petal fall or approaching shuck-split.

PEACH POWDERY MILDEW: Treatments, if necessary, generally need to be applied around petal fall or shuck-split. Recommended materials include Flint, Rally, Orbit, Abound (Abound should do double-duty by suppressing coryneum blight, too), and horticultural mineral oil (don't mix with sulfur or apply soon after a sulfur application).

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.