

Fire Blight, Campylocoma, Aphids, Thrips, Lygus

April 28, 2004

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

FIRE BLIGHT: The fire blight models (MARYBLYT and Cougarblight) indicate a high risk of blossom infection over the next couple of days for most of northern Utah. This assumes that an orchard has trees with open flowers and a source of inoculum. The high risk is due to the unseasonably warm weather. Any wetting event, including high volume pesticide sprays, can facilitate infection.

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

PEACH TWIG BORER: Put your traps up soon (perhaps after the storms). We should catch the first few moths later next week, but you should have a string of zeros before you catch the very first one (a string of zeros usually means the first moth really is the first moth). The date you catch the first moth(s) is referred to as the "biofix."

CODLING MOTH: Biofixes have been determined for most of northern Utah (Boxelder, Weber, Davis, and Utah Counties). Cache County has not yet had a firm biofix. The latest biofix and degree-day accumulations will be posted later today (depending on when the USU computer tech support can finish restoring the software on my computer after a recent virus attack). The earliest ovicidal sprays for codling moth are likely a week or more away. The first sprays targeting caterpillars are about 2 weeks away, depending on weather.

CAMPYLOMMA: Campy nymphs have been found in Kaysville pears (0.8 nymphs/tree), West Mountain apples (0.05 nymphs/tree), Genola apples (0.1 nymphs/tree), and Lincoln Point apples (0.1 nymphs/tree). Further sampling would provide a better estimate of the populations at these sites. For light-skinned fruit, the general threshold for campy damage is 0.1 nymphs/tree (1 nymph found in 10 beat-samples). For dark-skinned fruit, the threshold is 1 nymph/tree (10 nymphs found in 10 beat-samples).

FRUITWORMS/LOOPERS: Young noctuid larvae were found in beat-samples of tart cherries in Santaquin. Five caterpillars were found after sampling 10 trees, and the caterpillars were all very young (2nd-3rd instars). These caterpillars can feed on leaves as well as young fruit. Further sampling would determine how widely distributed they are. Most damage is tolerable, but "hotspots" can cause localized defoliation and yield loss. A treatment of Bt (Dipel, Thuricide, Javelin) or spinosad (Success or Entrust) would likely take care of a hotspot.

GREEN PEACH APHID: Green peach aphids can cause significant damage early in the season, but generally, they're a problem only when their populations become exceedingly high. Beat-samples of peach and nectarine trees throughout an orchard will provide a good assessment of the aphid status. If leaves are curling, young fruit looks distorted, and you're finding dozens of aphids per beat-sample, then there may be a damaging population. Monitor your peach and nectarine blocks in the coming weeks.

GREEN APPLE APHID: A very small number of winged green apple aphids (identified by their green body with black legs, head, and "tail pipes") has been found in Kaysville and Santaquin, which suggests that they have already turned a generation and are dispersing throughout the orchard. Trees can sustain substantial populations, though, as demonstrated last year when populations got fairly

high before being suppressed by lady beetles and various other natural enemies.

APPLE GRAIN APHID: Apple grain aphids (identified by a bright green body with a darker green stripe down their back) are being found in beat-samples in Kaysville. This aphid emerges early in apple trees but moves to nearby grasses soon after petal-fall. It is often a good thing to have around early in the spring because it is food for lady beetle adults, which encourages the beetles to lay their eggs in the apple canopy.

THRIPS: High numbers are being found everywhere (immatures and adults). Commercial growers may want to investigate the distribution and densities of thrips in their pear and nectarine blocks. Damage is only cosmetic, but high populations can cause lots of scarring. Now would be a good time to treat if thrips damage has been a problem in the past. Carzol or Success/Entrust (spinosad) are good, proven materials for thrips control. Backyard growers can find spinosad formulated as “Ferti-lome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer, and Caterpillar Spray.”

LYGUS: Very few adults were found in Payson peaches, Genola peaches, and Lincoln Point nectarines (in the canopy). At this time of year, lygus adults are usually more interested in orchard weeds, hillside vegetation, or nearby alfalfa. As these hosts dry down or are cut, lygus is forced to disperse to greener pastures. If problems with cat-facing were experienced in the past, then a spray might be wise. Sweeps and beat-samples are a good means of monitoring this bug.

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.