

Coryneum, Fire Blight, Powdery Mildew

April 1, 2005

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

CORYNEUM BLIGHT (Peach Shothole): Scouting in southern Utah this week indicated that coryneum blight in certain peach orchards (Hurricane and Springdale) was significant. It would be advisable for all peach growers to examine orchards at this time (before the peach canopy fills out, obscuring the view) to determine how many dead buds and/or lesions are present. Most of these infections probably occurred in the fall and have developed over the winter. Reddish, sunken lesions on year-old wood and gumming on dark, unopened buds are fairly diagnostic of coryneum blight in spring. Selective pruning to remove these infections should help reduce the number of spores that are spread by spring rains. A shuck-split 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. The shuck-split application should provide protection for the newly set fruit.

FIRE BLIGHT: Open flowers are the primary infection sites for fire blight bacteria in spring. An average daily temperature of 60 F or greater (which has not yet occurred in northern Utah) is often associated with blossom infections in orchards where fire blight is present. However, infection can also happen even if the daily average does not exceed 60 F. If there have been 3 or 4 days of relatively warm weather (averages in the high 50s F) followed by a rain, then there may also be a high risk of infection. At this time, it would be wise to remove fire blight cankers by pruning them out and destroying the cuttings. If you have open apple or pear flowers and a history of fire blight, then sprays with either streptomycin or oxytetracycline right before a rain can help prevent infection. Irrigation that drenches flowers should be minimized during bloom.

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: Apple varieties that are susceptible to powdery mildew may need fungicide treatments in the near future. Treatments should begin around "first pink" (open buds with flower petals barely visible) and may need to be repeated every two weeks until buds set. The pathogen causing apple powdery mildew overwinters under bud scales, so if suppression can be maintained through July (or whenever buds set), future infections can be reduced. Commercial growers should consider fungicides such as Bayleton, Rally, Rubigan, Funginex, sulfur, Procure, Sulforix, Topsin M, and Armicarb. Backyard growers should be able to find sulfur formulations and/or Funginex. Manual removal of infected tissues will help, too.

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

CHERRY BACTERIAL BLAST: Buds that are infected with the bacterium, *Pseudomonas syringae*, may be showing symptoms at this time. There is nothing that can be sprayed to remove the infection. Infected buds can be pruned out and destroyed.

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

CODLING MOTH: Degree-day totals (counting from March 1st) have remained quite low in northern Utah, even at some of the warmer sites in Utah County. DD totals currently range from 18

to 50, and codling moths are expected by 250. There's no rush at this point to get traps up, but it might be wise to get them up in the next 7-14 days. Growers in the southern part of Utah may want to get their traps up much sooner. It is important to have several zeros (hopefully a week's worth) before you catch your first couple of moths because those zeros help affirm that you didn't miss an earlier biofix.

PEACH TWIG BORER: These moths generally emerge 10-14 days after codling moth.

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.