Codling Moth, Cherry Fruit Fly, Powdery Mildew

May 12, 2005

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

CODLING MOTH: New biofixes have been reported for codling moth in Utah County. An apple grower in the West Mountain area got a biofix on May 4th, and a Master Gardener in Provo determined a biofix on May 8th. As a reminder, a biofix is the calendar date on which the first moth(s) of the season is/are caught (however, if just one moth is caught, the biofix isn't entirely valid until a second is caught within a week's time, assuming dusk temperatures have been 55 F or higher).

Cache County growers should expect biofixes soon. Salt Lake County growers will likely get their biofixes by this weekend, if not already.

Much appreciation and credit is extended to the USU Extension Agents, Master Gardeners, and commercial orchardists who have dutifully trapped and reported their findings.

WESTERN CHERRY FRUIT FLY (WCFF): This fruit fly is one of the most significant pests of cherry in Utah. This pest spends the winter in the soil and emerges when 800-900 degree-days have accumulated. WCFF populations in much of northern Utah have accumulated 500-600 degree-days. Traps can be set around 700 degree-days to ensure the detection of the initial emergence.

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

FIRE BLIGHT: The fire blight models (MARYBLYT and Cougarblight) indicate low to moderate risks of blossom infection in the near future. The MARYBLYT output for much of northern Utah (apples, pears south of Cache County) suggested there would be a moderate risk of infection by Saturday, though any rain on this day would raise the risk to "high." Orchards with susceptible apple/pear varieties, open blossoms, and a history of fire blight might need a bactericide application (streptomycin or oxytetracycline) this weekend if rain is forecast for Sunday/Monday. Cache County growers face low to moderate risks given the recent (and forecasted) temperatures.

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: Powdery mildew is the most common disease of apple trees in Utah. Apple cultivars such as 'Jonathan', 'Jonagold', 'Idared', 'Rome', and 'Gala' are susceptible to this fungus, whereas 'Red' and 'Golden Delicious' are more resistant. Powdery mildew spends the winter as mycelia (fungal strands) under bud scales and then spreads by wind and rain splash. This spring clearly has provided plenty of wind and rain. It would be wise to maintain a powdery mildew control program, which begins at first-pink and continues into July (when terminal buds set). A fungicide spray every 2-3 weeks (for susceptible cultivars) should keep trees protected and reduce inoculum levels next year. Bayleton, Flint, Procure, Rally, Rubigan, and sulfur formulations should provide control. Home owners can remove infected shoots in spring, and this will help reduce infections in new shoots.

PEACH POWDERY MILDEW: Most peaches south of Cache County are at or near shuck-fall at this time. The tremendous amount of recent precipitation may increase the incidence of powdery mildew infection. The current "break" in the rainy weather may present a good opportunity to make

an application, if it is deemed necessary. Recommended materials for peaches (and nectarines, apricots, plums) include Flint, Pristine, Rally, Orbit, and horticultural mineral oil. Shuck-split/shuck-fall is a good timing for the spray.

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.

CHERRY POWDERY MILDEW: This is a serious disease of cherries, particularly tart cherries. Younger trees can be hit hard by a powdery mildew outbreak, and scouting in spring for the first powdery lesions on the leaves would be wise in the coming days (coming weeks for Cache County growers). Historically, the first fungicide sprays in northern Utah are made between May 5th and June 3rd. Flint, Procure, Rally, Rubigan, Funginex, and sulfur should be available for cherry powdery mildew suppression.

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.