

Coryneum Blight, Cherry Fruit Fly

May 26, 2005

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

CORYNEUM BLIGHT (Peach Shothole): Widespread infection of peach trees in Utah is becoming more apparent as the infections develop. Selective pruning of coryneum cankers will remove most of the inoculum sources and thus, much of the problem. Commercial peach/apricot/nectarine producers and backyard growers should do this as soon as possible. Following a thorough pruning, sprays with fungicides such as Abound, Pristine, or Ziram are recommended if “shotholes” and/or red spots are visible on leaves or fruit. Backyard growers can spray either captan or sulfur to suppress coryneum blight post-bloom. Multiple applications will likely be necessary throughout the growing season, particularly in advance of rain. Care should be taken not to wet the leaves of infected trees during irrigation because this can facilitate further infection.

As discussed last week, some characteristic signs of coryneum blight at this time of year: 1) dark, unopened buds, often with amber gumming at the bud, 2) reddish, sunken spots on last year’s wood or current-year shoots, 3) young leaves with red spotting, 4) many small round holes in leaves, and 5) blighted blossoms/leaves (dried blossoms, dead or chlorotic leaves). Hail damage generally does not produce the same type of well-defined, circular “shotholes.” Hail damage will usually show up on peach leaves as either linear tears or as numerous small, tan “scuff” marks.

FIRE BLIGHT: Using recent weather data as well as forecasts, the MARYBLYT and Cougarblight models have indicated that susceptible apple varieties (Jonathan, Jonagold, Gala, Idared) in Cache County will be under a high risk of infection in the coming days. If rain occurs this Saturday as currently predicted, there will be a very high likelihood of fire blight infection, particularly if fire blight has been a recent problem. Growers who are concerned about fire blight may want to apply a bactericide before the rain event. Backyard growers should be able to find streptomycin formulations at certain nurseries.

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: Susceptible varieties (eg., Jonathan, Jonagold, Idared) in Utah and Cache Counties are showing signs of powdery mildew infections. Continue with powdery mildew fungicide programs (eg, Bayleton, Flint, Rally, Rubigan, Procure, Sulfur) every two weeks until terminal buds set.

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

CODLING MOTH: Eggs of the 1st generation will likely begin hatching around 220 DDs. The updated PROJECTED start-dates of egg-hatch are as follows:

BOX ELDER CO.

Perry: May 26

CACHE CO.

Logan: May 31

N. Logan: May 31

River Heights: May 29

DAVIS CO.

Kaysville: May 26

SALT LAKE CO.

Salt Lake City: May 27

W Valley City: May 27

UTAH CO.

Alpine: June

Lincoln Point: May 29

Orem: May 27

Payson: May 28

Provo: May 25

Santaquin: May 28

West Mountain: May 27

WEBER CO.

Pleasant View: May 26

As stated last week, Assail, Danitol, Imidan, Guthion, Intrepid, and Calypso can be expected to perform well against codling moth. Uniform coverage is crucial for codling moth control.

Tank-mixing 1% (or less) of oil will likely increase the efficacy of most materials. Where growers have had a history of insecticide resistance, consider tank-mixing materials with different modes of action. Intrepid, Rimon, and Esteem are effective ovicides (kills codling moth eggs) and will help to reduce insecticide resistance. Assail and Calypso have ovicidal and larvicidal activity, and they should also work well against woolly apple aphid.

Homeowners can use a 1% oil spray (such as SunSpray Ultra-Fine) with esfenvalerate (Ortho Bug B Gon), malathion, or spinosad (Ferti-lome formulation). Diazinon and phosmet (Imidan) can be used if you have been able to find remaining supplies on the shelves, but their registrations have been cancelled for home use.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Biofixes were recently determined for this moth in Kaysville (May 23rd), Payson (May 25th), and Lincoln Point (May 25th). Peach twig borer sprays generally need to be applied between 300 and 400 DDs following the biofix, depending on the local moth population and spray history. At the warmest locations, it will probably be another two weeks before sprays are warranted.

WESTERN CHERRY FRUIT FLY (WCFF): Trapping with baited yellow sticky traps has produced the season's first flies. Flies were caught in Kaysville (Davis Co.) on Monday and in Santaquin (Utah Co.) on Wednesday of this week. Generally, egg-laying by these flies begins 7-10 days following their emergence. Growers in the warmer areas of northern Utah may want to consider their first sprays of the season this weekend or sometime next week. Commercial growers can expect good control from GF-120 (active ingredient: spinosad), as well as from Provado and the various organophosphate insecticides. Backyard cherry growers have Ortho Bug B Gon (active ingredient: esfenvalerate) and a Ferti-lome formulation of spinosad (Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer, and Tent Caterpillar Spray) available to control the adult flies. Malathion has been known to be phytotoxic to cherries, so if a tree has never received a malathion application, consider another material (or test the malathion formulation on a few leaves first).

WOOLLY APPLE APHID: This pest can be very troublesome once it gets entrenched in an orchard. Active colonies in the canopies of apple trees were observed in Payson (Utah Co.) this week. Sprays for codling moth (Guthion, Assail, Danitol) will often suppress this pest, but excellent coverage is vital. Woolly apple aphids seek out recessed or protected feeding positions, and their fibrous "woolly" secretions can reduce direct contact by sprays.

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.