

Codling Moth Biofixes

May 6, 2005

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

CODLING MOTH: Reports of codling moth biofixes have been made for the following locations:
Perry (Box Elder Co.): May 4th
Pleasant View (Weber Co.): May 3rd
Kaysville (Davis Co.): May 1st

The cold and wet weather forecast for the next 3 days in much of northern Utah should keep moth activity relatively low, but expect moths to fly soon after this cold front passes.

These biofixes may seem early in terms of degree-day totals (100 DD early in some cases!), but there is an explanation: cool springs tend to “spread out” the moth emergence. Moths on the sunny side of the tree tend to develop slightly faster than those on the shady side for obvious reasons. “Sunny side” moths will usually have a slight advantage over the shady-side moths, but when spring temperatures remain cool (despite having sunny or partly cloudy skies), the moths developing on the sunny side benefit even more from the direct sunlight.

There’s an old saying about codling moth: “beware cool springs.” Cool and/or wet springs can lull growers into thinking that little or nothing’s happening, but this pest is good at making the most out of spring weather. Keep checking your traps over the weekend. Commercial growers should be prepared to hang mating disruption soon after a biofix is determined.

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.