

Cherry Powdery Mildew, Western Cherry Fruit Fly,

June 1, 2005

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

CHERRY POWDERY MILDEW: Powdery mildew lesions on tart cherry leaves were observed in Davis County on May 31st (by Thor Lindstrom, Kaysville Experimental Farm). Tart cherries tend to suffer from powdery mildew infections more than sweets. Sprays are recommended as soon as the first lesions are spotted. Fungicide sprays should be made on a regular basis thereafter (every 2 weeks for most fungicides) if this disease has been observed. Procure, Flint, Abound, Rally, Rubigan, Funginex, sulfur, Topsin, Elite, and Benlate are effective against this fungus. Benomyl, sulfur, propiconazole, triforine, or horticultural oil (do not combine oil with sulfur since phytotoxicity can result) are good options for the backyard grower. Prompt sanitation (removal of infected leaves) will help tremendously, too.

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

CODLING MOTH: Very high numbers of moths are being trapped in Cache, Box Elder, and Utah Counties. The first cover spray of the year should be applied soon, if not already.

Backyard apple growers should consider using apple bags to protect their crop. Paper or poly mesh bags are placed around the fruit and attached to the stem. This restricts access to the fruit by hungry codling moth larvae. Apple bags have been used successfully for many years (from Japan to New Zealand, and of course here in the U.S.), but the technique is obviously time-consuming during the initial set-up. However, if bagging the apples prevents a half-dozen sprays between now and September, it should be well worth the effort.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Biofixes were recently reported for PTB in Perry (May 23rd), Pleasant View (May 31st), West Valley City (May 20th), Orem (May 30th), and Provo (May 30th). The first spray of the season for PTB is often applied between 300 and 400 degree-days, which will probably take 2 weeks following a biofix. With all the cool weather this year and some cool days to come, even the sites with the earliest biofixes (Kaysville and W. Valley City) should have another 10-14 days to go.

WESTERN CHERRY FRUIT FLY (WCFF): The developmental model for WCFF indicates the adult flies should be emerging in much of northern Utah. Adult flies can be expected to emerge in the spring between 800 and 900 degree-days. The trap-catch last week in Kaysville appears to substantiate the model output. As of early Thursday morning, the following DD totals were tallied:

BOX ELDER CO.

Perry: 903

CACHE CO.

N. Logan: 643

River Heights: 831

DAVIS CO.

Kaysville: 915

SALT LAKE CO.
Salt Lake City: 1044
W Valley City: 1084

UTAH CO.
Alpine: 849
Lincoln Point: 869
Orem: 1018
Payson: 849
Provo: 1007
Santaquin: 884
West Mountain: 894

WEBER CO.
Pleasant View: 886

Generally, egg-laying by these flies begins about a week following their emergence. Growers in the warmer areas of northern Utah (Kaysville area, SLC area, and Provo area) may want to consider applying their first sprays of the season very soon, assuming the flies are present. Trapping with yellow sticky traps will help determine if WCFF is in a given orchard/tree. Commercial growers can expect good control from GF-120 (active ingredient: spinosad), as well as from Provado (imidacloprid) and the various organophosphate insecticides. Backyard cherry growers have Ortho Bug B Gon (active ingredient: esfenvalerate), Sevin (carbaryl), Ferti-lome's Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer, and Tent Caterpillar Spray (spinosad), and various permethrin formulations 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).

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.