

Greater Peachtree Borer, Spider Mites

June 9, 2004

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

GREATER PEACHTREE BORER: Moths were caught this week in Perry (Box Elder Co.), but not in any of the other orchards monitored along the Wasatch Front. Expect the first moths to show up in traps later this week or early next week. Mating disruption works very well for this pest, though backyard orchardists with relatively few trees may need to stick with trunk sprays. Esfenvalerate is likely the most persistent broad-spectrum insecticide that homeowners will be able to purchase and use on a fruit tree. Commercial growers can expect to get some control from trunk sprays of chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4EC), endosulfan (Thiodan), or esfenvalerate (Asana). Applications are advisable only if the presence of peachtree borers has been verified by local trapping. Confine sprays to the trunk and lower scaffolds (no foliage should be treated).

SPIDER MITES: Spider mites continue to be found in all apple and peach orchards. In most cases, the mites are confined to leaf clusters near the tree crotch and on shoots along lower scaffolds. But they're moving up and will be laying eggs in the near future, if they haven't already. Tank-mixing some oil with an upcoming cover spray will knock them back a bit. If mite populations have been troublesome in the past, an application of a miticide in the near future might be wise, but treatments should be based on monitoring. In peaches, presence-absence sampling works well. The following thresholds have been used in California peaches: when 25% or more of the interior leaves have mites (and no predators are present), then a treatment is advisable. If predators are present, the threshold is approximately 45% of leaves. Many of the newer miticides (such as Acramite, Apollo, Savey) are geared toward the immature stages, so if these materials are to be applied, they should go on sooner rather than later. Other miticides, such as Vendex and Agri-Mek, are very effective when applied before mite populations get extreme. Monitor early and often. Keep dust levels down.

WESTERN CHERRY FRUIT FLY: All sweet and tart cherries have developed enough at this point to be vulnerable to WCFF. Flies are being caught in Payson and Kaysville. If an application is going to be made, consider pre-harvest intervals because harvests are fast approaching.

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

CHERRY POWDERY MILDEW: Both sweets and tarts continue to push out succulent growth. Pronounced infections were found in Kaysville tarts. Protection should be maintained until the terminal buds set (same for apples and peaches). In tarts, powdery mildew infections that enter the pedicels (stems) will make it difficult to shake the cherries loose.

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.