Flatheaded Borer, Greater Peachtree Borer

June 9, 2005

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

FIRE BLIGHT: Fire blight infections have been observed in Utah Co. apples and Davis Co. pears. Pruning out these strikes will remove the infection and reduce subsequent shoot blight infections.

PEACH LEAF CURL: Despite its rarity in Utah, this fungal disease of peaches is showing up in a few isolated instances. Fall and/or early spring applications of copper or chlorothalonil are good management approaches for this disease. Sanitation and cultural practices are ineffective.

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

CODLING MOTH: In the cooler sites of Utah (which may seem like all of Utah, right now), such as Cache County and high-elevation sites elsewhere, the initial larval emergence is expected to be taking place today or by this weekend. Colder than expected temperatures have delayed the emergence of codling moth, though recently applied sprays should provide suppression. Another application may be necessary in the near future, depending on the date of a recent cover spray and the amount of rain received. Diane Alston, USU Extension Entomologist, recommends that if a half-inch (or more) of rain has fallen, shorten the spray interval. For conventional neurotoxins such as the organophosphates (Guthion, Diazinon, Imidan), consider a 2-week interval instead of 18-21 days. In general, growers can expect to reduce a spray interval by 1/3 if 0.5 inch of rain is received. Most of the apple and pear growers in Utah may want to consider adjusting the spray interval of any upcoming sprays.

In the "warmer" locations, such as Salt Lake City, Kaysville, Provo, and West Mountain area of Utah Co., the codling moth populations are at or approaching peak egg-hatch. Peak egg-hatch refers to the point in the first generation where larval emergence accelerates rapidly. Between 340 and 660 DDs, 70% of the entire first generation can be expected to emerge, so it makes sense to have fresh insecticide residue protecting fruit during this time. It appears that Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and parts of Utah County, are at or near peak codling moth egg-hatch for the 1st generation.
A few useful websites for backyard growers considering apple bags this year:
http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/fruit/ef218.htm. To purchase:
http://www.raintreenursery.com/.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Like codling moth, egg-hatch for twig borer begins at 220 DDs following the biofix. However, most peach growers shoot for 300-400 DDs for their first spray. The dates provided in the online phenology tables are the projected FIRST EMERGENCE, not the 300 or 400 DD timing. Growers are encouraged to time their sprays based on their PTB population pressure, the type of insecticide they're using, and the number of DDs accumulated in their growing region.

In the earliest PTB sites (Salt Lake County and parts of Davis and Utah Counties), it may take 7-10 days before their respective DD totals reach 300. Other sites may have 2 weeks to go, but as always, it depends on weather. If another wave of cold fronts come through, the spray timing will be delayed even more.

FLATHEADED BORER: This wood-boring beetle usually emerges by late May in northern Utah. Given the exceedingly cool spring, it is anticipated that the beetle will begin emerging soon, if not already. For at-risk trees, such as those with a history of flatheaded borer or those near infested orchards, a spray program may be warranted for this pest. Oval-shaped emergence holes are characteristic of flatheaded borer and will help verify that it is present. If present, monthly trunk sprays (from the soil line up to the lower scaffold branches) beginning in June and continuing through August should help control it. For commercial growers, Lorsban 4E, Thiodan, Asana, and Sevin are good options. Backyard growers can expect good control from Ortho Bug B Gon (esfenvalerate), Sevin (carbaryl), or diazinon, if on-hand. Home orchards have another option in the form of a soil drench: Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control (imidacloprid). This material is taken up systemically and can be used on apples, pears, ornamentals, and other non-bearing trees/shrubs, but not on any other fruit bearing trees/shrubs (such as stone fruit or caneberries).

GREATER PEACHTREE BORER: Traps should be set up soon. This clearwing moth should be emerging in the near future, and trapping is one of the easiest ways to determine if it's nearby and likely to be a problem. For commercial growers considering mating disruption, the dispensers should be purchased as soon as possible.
