

Spider Mites, Lygus, Hail Damage, Peach Rusty Spot

July 8, 2004

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

PEACH TWIG BORER: Trap-counts in all monitored orchards have declined markedly in the last couple of weeks. The 1st flight has ended, and in the warmer locations, such as Perry, Willard, Kaysville, Payson, and Lincoln Point, the earliest moths of the 2nd flight are being caught. No shoot strikes or fruit entries have been observed so far, suggesting that control tactics have been effective (and that pest pressure has remained low). Expect to see the 2nd generation larvae around 1080 DDs, which should arrive this weekend for Box Elder and Salt Lake County growers. Weber, Davis, and much of Utah County will likely experience the 2nd generation egg-hatch next week. Sprays for the 2nd generation of PTB will likely need to occur between 1300-1400 DD.

CODLING MOTH: Orchards in Box Elder (Perry and Willard), Weber (Pleasant View), Salt Lake (Salt Lake City), and Utah Counties (Genola, Orem, Payson, and Provo) should now be experiencing the beginning of the 2nd generation egg-hatch. For growers planning to make applications at the typical 1250 DD timing, it looks like Perry and Willard will reach 1250 DD on July 12th, Pleasant View on July 11th, Salt Lake City on July 8th, Genola on July 13th, Payson on the 16th, Orem on the 12th, Spanish Fork on the 13th, and Provo on the 11th. Cache County and Alpine orchardists should be 99% done with the 1st generation egg-hatch.

SPIDER MITES: Spider mites are being found in every monitored orchard, and the numbers are generally increasing. Hot-spots have been noted in Lincoln Point nectarines (two-spotted spider mites) and West Mountain apples (McDaniel spider mites). The spring and summer temperatures have been fairly kind this year, but as the daytime temperatures rise, mites can really take off. Predatory mites have been observed in good numbers in Genola and Payson peaches, as well as West Mountain apples. If predators are present, then a treatment may not be necessary.

In the absence of predators, substantial mite populations at this time may warrant a miticide application, especially if dusty conditions exist in/near the orchard. Proven materials include Acramite, Savey, Apollo, Vendex, and Agri-Mek. Apollo and Savey target primarily the eggs and earliest immature stages, so the application would need to go on sooner rather than later. Acramite is effective on all immature stages (including eggs) and is very persistent (needs to be applied in buffered water to slow degradation). Backyard growers can rely on insecticidal soap or a 1% summer-oil application. Coverage is paramount for all applications, whether in the backyard or commercial orchard.

LYGUS BUGS: Adult lygus bugs were observed in Payson, Genola, and Lincoln Point orchards. Wherever substantial understory vegetation exists (whether in or near an orchard), there is a threat of lygus. Now is the time of year that lygus, as well as other cat-facing bugs, really target tree fruit. Adults migrate rapidly into apple, pear, peach, or nectarine orchards and should be monitored regularly. If necessary, Pounce, Lannate, or Thiodan can be used for cat-facing insects. Acephate as an understory material has been used with success, too. Sampling for lygus is easily accomplished with any sort of sweep net. Some cat-facing was observed in Payson and Lincoln Point, though lygus numbers did not appear excessive.

HAIL DAMAGE: Severe hail damage has been observed in certain apple and peach blocks in Perry, Genola, and Lincoln Point. The damage is approximately a month old, now, but it can

sometimes resemble pest feeding damage. The hail damage to apples, at this point, generally looks like small sunken spots on the upper side of the fruit. The spots are often reddish, sometimes a little scabby, and numerous. On peaches, the damage appears as numerous small, white fuzzy spots that are confined to the top side of the fruit.

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

PEACH RUSTY SPOT: Infections of peaches in Genola were observed (very few). This fungus is the same species that causes powdery mildew in apples, and it jumps from nearby apple orchards to infect peaches when rain, wind, and humidity permit. Backyard growers may notice the small, rust-colored lesions on peaches that are close to apple trees (benlate or sulfur are the recommended fungicides).

CYTOSPORA CANKER: Major gumming around cytospora infections was observed in peach orchards in Perry, Payson, and Lincoln Point. It's a perennial problem if not pruned out, and mid-summer rains will further distribute the spores in rain-splash.

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.