

Codling Moth, Peach Twig Borer, Boxelder Bugs, Earwigs

August 18, 2004

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

CODLING MOTH: Codling moths are being trapped in high numbers at almost all monitored locations (except for orchards with mating disruption). According to the CM model, there will be a significant 3rd generation egg-hatch in most orchards south of Cache County. The developing 2nd generation larvae are paying attention to the day-length as they fatten up and prepare to pupate. If the days are still long (pre-August 22nd), then they get the physiological “green light” to begin pupating. Once they pupate and mate, the female moths will start laying eggs, and those eggs have no choice but to hatch and eat as much as they can before it gets too cold. It may be a suicide mission for these 3rd generation larvae, but they will take a lot of apples with them. Apples and pears that are to be harvested within the next week or so may not see much of the 3rd generation. For growers with mid-September to mid-October harvest dates, the 3rd generation could be a concern. In Box Elder, Weber, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties, the 3rd generation has likely started already in the warmer locations (Perry, Willard, SLC, Orem, Provo, Genola, Spanish Fork). In the next week, 5-20% of the 3rd generation egg-hatch should have occurred, depending on the site (and the weather, of course). It might be prudent to maintain some degree of protection through harvest if there are 2 or more weeks to go.

PEACH TWIG BORER: As with the apple and pear orchards, most peach growers who are harvesting soon will avoid much of the 3rd generation and should be able to pick the fruit without too much concern. Most sites south of Cache County are between the 2nd and 3rd generation egg-hatches, so this little reprieve seems to have provided a welcome chance to harvest in peace. For growers with peaches to be harvest in 2-4 weeks, the 3rd generation egg-hatch will probably begin later this week in the warmer locations and should start to accelerate by the middle of next week. Trap counts of adult moths have been high only in Box Elder County orchards, but local trapping conditions can always vary. Cache County growers should be experiencing peak egg-hatch of 2nd generation at the moment and should try to ensure that the fruit are protected at this time. Backyard growers can cut out shoot strikes with a telescoping pruner, and infested fruit should be destroyed. While these methods are somewhat labor-intensive, they are some of the best ways to remove a huge segment of the twig borer population without spraying.

SPIDER MITES: The cooler, wetter weather conditions over the last several weeks, combined with the miticide treatments most growers applied, have really helped the mite situation. Mite populations are still substantial in some areas (Perry, Willard, and Kaysville), but there do not appear to be any desperate situations out there. Keep monitoring through harvest.

BOXELDER BUGS and EARWIGS: Boxelder bugs can be a late-season threat to peaches, but usually they aren't a direct pest. If there is a problem with large numbers of either boxelder bugs or earwigs in the canopy, then a last-resort treatment of Pyganic, Lannate, Ambush/Pounce, or Sevin should provide some suppression (Lannate will also take care of problematic thrips populations, which may be a concern for nectarine or plum growers). Remember that Ambush, Pounce, or Sevin may flare the mites. Earwigs can feed directly on peaches, but these insects usually don't become interested in the fruit until it's fairly ripe. In Kaysville and Perry, approximately 4% of the harvestable fruit was lost to recent earwig feeding. The fruit injury observed was a small but deep pit (1/4-1/2 inch deep) in the surface of the peach, usually with some relatively large frass pellets

scattered within the pit (and no webbing present). Beat-samples or close examinations of fruit (especially split-pits) will determine if earwigs are present.

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.