Codling Moth, Eriophyid Mites

September 27, 2004

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

CODLING MOTH: Autumn is here, and most apples have been harvested or will be soon. Codling moth traps have been taken down at all monitored sites, but live adults were found during the last trap check (early- to mid-September). Moderate numbers (1-19 per trap over a two week period) were caught in orchards in Utah County (Payson, Santaquin, West Mountain) and Davis County (Kaysville). In the Perry area of Box Elder County, substantial numbers of moths were caught. Despite these moth counts, there shouldn't be many more eggs hatching at this point in the season.

Eggs that were laid 1-2 weeks ago probably have not had enough heat units to hatch, and if the cool weather continues, they may not ever hatch. In the warmest orchards, such as those in the Salt Lake area, Provo area, and Fruitway area of Box Elder County, a large percentage of the 3rd generation should already have hatched out, but due to the shortening day-length, few eggs, if any, should remain.
Windfall apples need to be removed from the orchard and destroyed as soon as possible. They are often infested with codling moth larvae and can serve as overwintering sites.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Since most peaches have been harvested or will be very soon, sprays for this pest are likely to be unnecessary. Adult moths were caught in moderate numbers (12-20 per site over two weeks) in Utah County (Santaquin, Lincoln Point) and in Box Elder County during early September trapping. Larvae that are developing at this time of year will begin to feed on tree cambium. These individuals will burrow into the cambium, creating a chamber in which they'll spend the winter.

ERIOPHYID MITES: This group of mites (also known as blister mites, peach silver mites, and cherry rust mites) is generally neutral-to-good because while they do feed on leaves and sometimes fruit, they serve as alternate food sources for predatory mites when spider mites aren't around. As an alternate food source, they keep predatory mite numbers higher so that they can more effectively exploit spider mites. However, populations of blister mites can become excessive, especially in pears because pear leaves are somewhat sensitive to feeding injury. Autumn is the time of year that female pearleaf blister mites (and other eriophyid mites) travel from leaves to buds where they'll overwinter under bud scales. If a grower has had substantial trouble with blister mites, then it might be wise to apply a spray of horticultural oil (2 % by volume) soon after leaves begin to senesce (take on fall colors). This will target the mites during the commute from leaves to buds. Otherwise, a spring application of oil will target these mites as buds open and leaves emerge.

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

CORYNEUM BLIGHT: If peach, apricot, nectarine or cherry trees have been infected with coryneum (also known as shot-hole), sprays at 50% leaf-fall are the recommended treatments. Applications at 50% leaf-fall will often remove most of the remaining leaves and in so doing, coat the leaf scars and "seal" the tree. Commonly available materials such as fixed coppers, copper sulfate, chlorothalonil (Bravo or Daconil), and captan are recommended if coryneum is a problem. Coryneum blight was observed at most of the monitored peach orchards this season.

CYTOSPORA: This pathogen must be dealt with by maintaining tree health (iron chlorosis predisposes trees to infection), pruning out dead, damaged, or diseased portions of the canopy, and keeping inoculum sources away from the your trees (remove prunings, re-locate wood piles).

APPLE SCAB: Apple scab spends the winter in a dormant stage in leaves. If scab was a problem for you this year, remove and destroy leaves after they have fallen. Growers can add 5% urea to the fallen foliage to expedite microbial decomposition of the leaves. Flail mowing may also help. Spring fungicide treatments timed for rain events may be necessary if inoculum sources are not removed in the fall.

FIRE BLIGHT: Fall shoot infections are extremely dangerous and care should be taken to prune out infections to avoid overwintering cankers. Fall infections often progress into large branches and may also cause rootstock blight. Be vigilant and thorough. It is not necessary to sterilize pruners this time of year.

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.