

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest

During harvest, you will see many types of injury on peaches. Some can be explained while others (mostly caused by environmental factors) are more difficult to diagnose. Some of the examples below are the more common types of damage that can be found on ripening peach and nectarine fruit.



Fruitworm feeding that occurred early to mid season. Fruitworms are a minor pest.



Bird feeding!



Caterpillar feeding hole that has healed over. Note smooth edges. The culprit may have been leafroller or fruitworm.



Lygus bug feeding holes that have healed over. Note wrinkled edges. Feeding probably occurred during or after bloom.

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest, continued



"Cat-facing" injury from early feeding by stink bugs or lygus bugs.



Earwig feeding hole. Earwig holes are round and deep, often associated with black frass (poop).



Droplets of excrement from boxelder bugs that had been feeding on this fruit.



Large drops of frass from root-weevils. (Easily washed off.) The adult root weevils feed on the edges of leaves.



Each purple spot has a San Jose scale in the center, on this nectarine. Scales are immobile insects that feed by sucking plant juices.



Recent wound caused by a rubbing branch.

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest, continued



Early thrips injury to peach. Injury occurred when thrips fed inside the flower, deforming the developing fruit.



Early thrips injury to nectarine. Nectarine is more susceptible to damage.



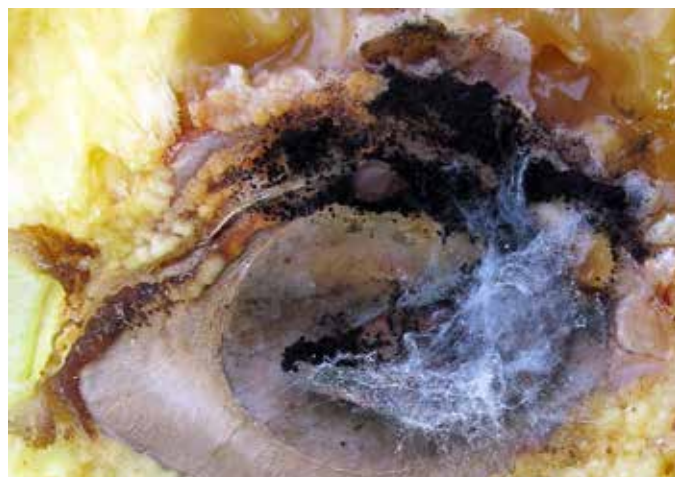
Late thrips injury to peach, called "silvering". Thrips feed on the surface of the fruit by scraping the cells, which removes the red coloration of the skin.



Phytotoxicity of fruit and foliage (type of pesticide or other material that was applied is unknown).



Peach twig borer feeding injury inside the fruit. Note the large, brown frass pellets (poop) in the mid-right of image.



Earwig feeding injury inside fruit. Note small, black frass pellets in upper right of image.

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest, continued



Bacterial decay (non-pathogenic) of fruit. The bacteria may have been introduced by earwig, split pit, hail, or other.



Rhizopus fruit rot (non-pathogenic). This decay fungus may be introduced by earwigs. Mature rot is black in appearance.



Coryneum blight, late-season, soft infections.



Coryneum blight, early-season, scabby infections.



Infection by the disease, brown rot. Heavy rains on late-season peaches may result in the spread of this disease.



Brown rot enveloping a peach, turning it into a "mummy". This peach will remain attached to the tree through winter.

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest, continued



Oozing due to split pit. Split pits occur when trees receive heavy irrigation/water in spring followed by drought in summer.



Peaches with split pits can also split along the suture, resulting in rotting.



"Red suture" caused by 2,4-D herbicide drift. Growth regulators in the herbicide causes a bulge and reddening of the suture.



Rotting fruit that split due to "red suture".



Interior fruit fungal rot. Peaches with split pits have a tiny opening at the stem (or along the suture) that allows insects to enter and introduce decay fungi.



Interior fruit bacterial rot. Earwigs were able to enter the fruit through the stem, and introduced decay bacteria.

Peach Maladies Found at Harvest, continued



Hail damage.



Peach powdery mildew.



Apple powdery mildew causes russetting of the fruit in small or large circular patches.



Apple powdery mildew lesions on fruit will later crack, ooze, and turn leathery. Note circular shape.



Wound caused by a branch or leaves rubbing against the peach during a wind storm. Note irregular shape.



Injury caused by late frost (to flower or fruitlet). Note pattern that wraps around fruit, and cracking.

Precautionary Statement: Utah State University Extension and its employees are not responsible for the use, misuse, or damage caused by application or misapplication of products or information mentioned in this document. All pesticides are labeled with ingredients, instructions, and risks. The pesticide applicator is legally responsible for proper use. USU makes no endorsement of the products listed herein.

Tree Fruit IPM Advisory
is published weekly by Utah State University Extension

Editor: Marion Murray, marion.murray@usu.edu

[click here](#) for archived advisories