Fruit Pest News
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1. Fire Blight Update

Fire blight infection held off at the Nashville planting of Golden Delicious until recently, when the bloom period was nearing an end. Few blossoms remain, meaning that the need for streptomycin sprays is nearing an end. The accompanying graph is taken from the Maryblyt program, which uses daily temperature and rainfall to predict when infection occurs. We had enough cool weather during bloom to hold down the infection risk. Last weekend’s hot weather changed that. Infection occurred as early as April 7 if dews occurred during the hot weather. If not, then infection occurred during Monday night’s rain, as shown in the graph (red bar). Next, Maryblyt will predict when symptoms will appear.

Last weekend’s heat wave probably caused some infections on unprotected blossoms. But if your varieties were nearing petal fall, damage may be minimal. (SB)

2. Rainy Weather Coming

Rainfall is expected to be above normal for the next two weeks. Several key infection periods for diseases of fruit crops occur during that time:
- Peach scab control is critical during shuck split (occurring now) and the first two cover sprays.
- Cedar-apple rust spores are now available and apple infections are possible through early to mid-May.
- Primary (overwintering) apple scab infections will be at their peak during that time.
- The grape black rot critical period begins at the prebloom spray - Usually late April, but grapes seem to be running behind schedule this year.

Control efforts will be hampered and disease pressure will be high. During extended rainy periods, don’t miss an opportunity to spray before upcoming rains. Including fungicides with kickback activity helps, because infections are often inevitable during such periods of weather. The sterol inhibitors excel in this area. Refer to the last issue of Fruit Pest News for links to our spray guides. (SB)

3. Home Orchard Products for Cedar-Apple Rust

The period between bloom and second cover is the critical period for prevention of cedar-apple rust. Homeowners should use a myclobutanil product every 10 to 14 days. Sulfur is an alternative, but is not as effective as myclobutanil.

Myclobutanil products include Spectracide’s Immunox and Dow’s Eagle 20EW. Immunox is generally available, but some outlets carry only Immunox Plus, which is not labeled for food crops because of an insecticide in its contents. Look for Immunox, not Immunox Plus.

For larger home orchards, Eagle fits the bill. It is sold in 1-pint containers, like Immunox, but is more concentrated and will go further. It is available at TFC and possibly other outlets. (SB)
4. Pheromone Trap Catches

The first Oriental fruit moths were collected in the pheromone trap on April 5, which is the biofix for our Nashville location. Four black cutworm moths were also collected that day. Black cutworms primarily overwinter south of Tennessee in the Gulf Coast States. They fly northward on the prevailing winds each spring. Black cutworms will then lay single eggs on host plants (weeds, grass, and crops). They are nocturnal feeders that can clip emerging plants and drag them to underground hiding places. Inspect for damage and feeding cutworms in early morning.

A clearwing pest, the lilac or ash borer, had a biofix of April 8. This day flying moth is reddish brown with clear wings outlined with dark scales. It resembles a paper wasp but is actually harmless as an adult. The larvae attack ash, privet and lilac. Another clearwing moth pest, the lesser peachtree borer, also had a biofix of April 8. The larvae of the lesser peachtree borer attack the branches while the peachtree borer which should have adult moths emerging in May tends to lay its eggs on the lower trunk.

The first plum curculio adult was caught on April 11 using a tedders Trap. The plum curculio see the dark vertical silhouette of the trap and climb it and get caught in the container at the top. Apparently, the trap resembles a tree trunk enough to be attractive to the plum curculio. (FH)

5. Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an exotic pest from Asia. It was officially found in the U.S. for the first time in Pennsylvania in 2001. Since then it has spread across the country quickly since it is also a nuisance pest in homes and buildings with a tendency to hitchhike via vehicles and in boxes. It was found in Knox County in 2009 and is now additionally found in Loudon, Hamblen, Hamilton, Sullivan, Davidson, and Hamilton Counties. It is probably distributed elsewhere so let us know if you see this pest. This insect has a white band on each leg and the antennae (4th antennal segment) which is not found on our other common stink bugs. Also, the edge of some of the abdominal segments protrude from beneath the wings and they are alternately banded with black and white. We really did not know if this was going to be much more than a nuisance pest until last summer. In areas such as Western Maryland, considerable damage occurred to fruit (peaches, apples, grapes, raspberries) and vegetable crops (sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, and eggplant). The BMSB injects an enzyme while feeding that causes mishapen, sunken areas on the surface and brown corky lesions under the surface that total ruin the fruit or vegetable quality. While we have not documented this type damage in Tennessee farms and orchards, it is only a matter of time. Work is being done to develop effective traps to use for monitoring for BMSB. Also, insecticides are being evaluated for effectiveness against BMSB since it appears to be somewhat problematic in controlling. I will try to keep you informed as we learn more about this pest and its distribution. (FH)