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UMassAmherst Outreach UMass Extension

Healthy Fruit

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

Healthy Fruit, Issue 11, June 19, 2007

http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/healthy_fruit/

Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 33F	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/07 – 06/17/07)		1278	809
Belchertown, UMass CSO SkyBit (01/01/07 – 06/17/07)		1077	

Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/ event	Location	Time	Information
July 12	MFGA Summer Meeting	Bolton Orchard, Bolton, MA	10 AM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

The way I see it

I've always found now to be a good time to be "up close and personal" with your apple trees. For one thing, as the summer solstice (longest days of the year) approaches, trees are being programmed to produce fruit buds (or not) for next year. In dwarf trees, a little summer pruning to enhance light penetration and distribution in the tree favors fruit bud development vs. vegetative bud development. A quick run-through removing vigorous wood or suckers that were missed during dormant pruning is helpful. Second, if apple trees need additional fruit thinning NOW is the time to get it done. As fruit are much larger than one inch, chemical thinning is probably out. This leaves hand thinning, and research show the earlier it can be done -- preferably by mid-month -- the more benefit you will get in terms of enhancing return bloom. Finally, being in the trees now will tell you if you have any scab. If not, you are done with it for the year. And oblique-banded leafroller (OBLR) larvae should become evident (curled leaves, not aphids) in terminals any time now. A threshold of one or two larvae per 100 shoots should result in action -- Intrepid, Spintor, Proclaim, or Dipel are good choices for control. For a short video on all of the above, see:

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMRRnuu2qKc

J. Clements

A rosy by any other name

In at least one block of Jonagold apples at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown, rosy apple aphids (RAA) -- a not so common pest for us -- have made an unwelcome appearance. RAA injury is characterized by grossly curled leaves on deformed shoots, with subsequent malformation of fruit in proximity to the feeding. (See picture at end of HF.) RAA can be a major pest in apples, however, natural predators usually keep them at bay. (Similar to what we see with apple 'green' aphid.) What's interesting about RAA is that it must have an abundance of its summer host plant narrow-leaved ('buckhorn') plantain in or near the orchard.
(See http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/weed_herbarium/pages/plala.html)

Control is not usually necessary, however, use of pyrethroid insecticides and mild winters may make them more common. Orchards that have a build-up of RAA's this year would do well to treat at pink (Actara, Assail, Calypso, MPEDE + oil) or petal fall (next year, too late this year!) with Provado. Whether climate change or some other factor is at work to make this pest more prevalent remains to be seen. J. Clements

Are OBLR going to make an appearance this year?

The past couple years we have aggressively treated a growing population of oblique-banded leafroller (OBLR) at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard. To date, this year -- knock on wood -- they have yet to make an appearance. Perhaps we will still find them in terminals, it remains to be seen. Either way, an article by Peter Jentsch in this week's Scaffolds Fruit Journal is worth looking at:

- http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scaffolds/2007/070618.html

Jentsch has also produced a fine web video on Summer Generation OBLR and Control:

- http://hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu/photogallery.html

As cherries ripen

You probably don't need to be reminded, but as cherries ripen they become extremely susceptible to brown rot. A weekly -- or more often if wet and humid -- fungicide spray is in order on cherries within two weeks or so of ripening. The SI fungicides Indar, Orbit, or Elite are best choices and all offer 0 day pre-harvest intervals. Pristine is a new fungicide and a good choice with a 0 day pre-harvest interval. And Captan should be rotated in every now and then for resistance management. It too has a 0 day pre-harvest interval, but a 4 day restricted-entry interval. (Ironic, refer to label for details.)

Enhancing return bloom

Reprinted from Grower Message for 06-19-07, Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program, Michael J. Fargione, Extension Educator

This is the "on year" for many biennial-bearing apple cultivars. If you have not already done so, this is the week to begin applications of NAA or ethephon for enhancing return bloom on these trees. Ethephon (Ethrel) is not recommended for enhancing return bloom on early-ripening cultivars:

- Honeycrisp: 4 weekly sprays are a necessary for this cultivar unless you have at least one-half to two thirds resting spurs on all your trees. Apply 2 oz Fruitone N per 100 gal dilute equivalent (=5 PPM) in each spray. As far as we know, the calcium material you are using to control bitter pit can be tank-mixed with this NAA treatment, but watch out how many things you add to the tank!
- Macoun: Apply 3-4 weekly sprays of 2 oz Fruitone N per 100 gal dilute equivalent.
- Cameo, Fuji, Golden Delicious, Fortune, Jonagold, Mutsu, Northern Spy: apply 3-4 weekly sprays of 1/2 pint (8 oz) of ethephon per 100 gal dilute equivalent (or you could use 2 sprays of ethephon followed with 1 or 2 sprays of 2 oz Fruitone N).

P.S. You may also want to look at Fact Sheet F-131 “Enhancing Return Bloom on Apples with Plant Growth Regulators” on the UMass Fruit Advisor:

- http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/factsheets/returnbloom.pdf

J. Clements

Rosy apple aphids. Note severely curled/stunted foliage and somewhat deformed fruit.

Note: Healthy Fruit is now on a once every two weeks publication schedule. The next HF will be published July 3.