UMassAmherst EXTENSION

Healthy Fruit

Volume 13, 2005

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 12, June 21, 2005

Current DD Accumulations

Location	Base 32F	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/05 – 06/20/05)	--	1085	636
Belchertown, SkyBit E-Weather (01/01/05 – 06/20/05)	--	1055	--

Note: this will be the last DD update of the season.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
July 18	Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association Summer Meeting	Nicewicz Farm 116 Sawyer Road Bolton, MA	TBA	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

The way I see it

Reports of continued apple fruitlet drop trickle in, although at this point the crop – at least in central Massachusetts – appears to be 'adequate.' It may, however, be one of the lighter crops in a few years. Peaches look good and are finally growing with the heat – you should be spending time hand thinning and summer pruning peaches now. Young apple trees will benefit from pruning and training at this time too. Insect and disease activity have been light, but keep an eye out for mites. There will be no Healthy Fruit next week as I will be in New Jersey attending the IDFTA Summer Tour. J. Clements

Entomology

You should be scouting for mites – both **European red mite and two-spotted spider mite** – on a weekly basis. Look at 100 leaves per block (half spur, half shoot) and count the number of mites. Threshold for treatment at this time of the year (mid-June) jumps from 2-3 mites/leaf to 5-7 mites. Presence of predaceous mites (one or more/leaf) may justify delaying treatment. There are many good summer mite treatment options, but excellent products include Nexter (formerly Pyramite), Acramite, and Zeal.

Growers with **oblique-banded leafroller (OBLR)** 'problem' blocks should be treating for the first summer generation larvae of this pest. Pyrethroids (Asana, Pounce, etc.) are effective, however, their use may lead to mite problems. Organophosphates (Guthion, Imidan) are options where resistance is not a problem. Spintor, Enrust, Intrepid, and other BT products are all

recommended and effective at this time for OBLR. Be sure to follow label recommendations closely, including the use of adjuvants where advised.

Keep an eye out for **leafhoppers** – both white apple and potato – at this time. Both pests can multiply rapidly and lead to problems down the road. Potato leafhopper can damage foliage on young trees practically overnight. Traditional controls include Imidan, Guthion, and Provado, however, new products with excellent efficacy include Avaunt (good), Actara, Assail, and Calypso.

Also watch out for **plant bugs** in peaches. Oak and Hickory plant bug, as well as green stink bug, can continue to cause cat-facing injury to peaches and nectarines. Peach orchards near oak or hickory woods should be treated with a pyrethroid to prevent this injury. Tarnished plant bugs are pretty much a non-issue at this time, unless a field or groundcover nearby with broadleaf weeds is allowed to grow tall and then mowed. The best tarnished plant bug management is to keep groundcover low in the vicinity of stone fruit orchards.

You may want to look at a website recently developed by **Alan Eaton**, UNH Cooperative Extension IPM Specialist. Alan has excellent color pictures with short descriptions of arthropod, disease, mechanical, nutritional, vertebrate, and more injury to apples in New Hampshire. All pictures are ones he took under local conditions. Check it out, it's a great reference, and we thank Alan for the good work: http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Agric/AGPMP/Apples/index.htm.

Diseases

It's too early to worry about **summer diseases** -- sooty blotch and flyspeck -- for now. So apple growers can generally take a break. Stone fruit growers may want to maintain some fungicide coverage for **brown rot**, particularly if the weather turns wet. Brown rot control will become more important as fruit mature. Pear growers will also want to maintain fungicide coverage through wet weather for **fabraea leaf spot**.

Horticulture

The timing is right for growth regulator sprays to increase fruit bud development for next year. (Although with a light crop, it may not be as important.) NAA or Ethrel can be used, at 2 oz. or 0.5 pt per 100 gallons respectively. Repeat the application after 7 to 10 days, within 4-6 weeks after bloom.