



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 10, 2002

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

## Issue 10 - June 4, 2002

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

| Date    | Meeting/Event                                | Location                                                      | Time     | Information                  |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| June 11 | Fruit Team Twilight Meeting                  | Clark Bros. Orchards<br>580 Apple Valley Rd.<br>Ashfield, MA  | 5:30 PM  | Jon Clements<br>413-323-4208 |
| June 12 | Fruit Team Twilight Meeting                  | Lanni Orchards<br>294 Chase Rd. (Rte. 13)<br>Lunenburg, MA    | 5:30 PM  | Jon Clements<br>413-323-4208 |
| June 13 | Fruit Team Twilight Meeting                  | Noquochoke Orchards<br>594 Drift Rd.<br>Westport, MA          | 5:30 PM  | Jon Clements<br>413-323-4208 |
| July 10 | Summer Meeting<br>Mass. Fruit Growers Assoc. | UMass Cold Spring Orchard<br>393 Sabin St.<br>Belchertown, MA | 10:00 AM | Jon Clements<br>413-323-4208 |

### Strip Apple Leaders Now

Jon Clements, Extension Fruit Specialist, UMASS  
Win Cowgill, County Agent, Rutgers

'Stripping' is a young tree training procedure used to isolate and protect the 'central-leader' of an apple tree. The three to four buds directly below a heading cut on newly planted apple trees develop vigorous, upright shoots. Choose the single most upright shoot to remain as the leader, and then strip (with a downward pull) or pinch out the few competing shoots (usually 2 or 3) directly below the leader shoot you want to maintain and promote. These should be removed as soon as possible to focus the growth into the central-leader and prevent a multi-leader tree from developing. Hand pruners may also be used. These competing shoots are easiest to

identify and remove when 3-4" long. For pictures of the 'stripping' technique, visit the UMass Fruit Advisor, <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvior>. Next week: using clothespins to form desirable branch crotch angles.

### Curculio

There is still the potential for significant curculio activity. More immigration into commercial orchards has occurred, notably on Saturday, 6/1; injury in one commercial orchard reached 5%, with 2% fresh and 3% old curc injury. Injury in non-sprayed orchards has not yet peaked. Continue to be vigilant for new curculio damage, and cover promptly if injury occurs. Border sprays should be adequate at this time if the orchard has been covered at least once with a full-orchard, full-rate insecticide.

## ***Borers***

Lesser peach-tree borers and dogwood borers have been flying for a week or more. This means that now is the best time for a trunk/scaffold application to control the hatching larvae. If using Lorsban for borer control, be *very* careful not to contact fruit with the spray.

## ***Pear Psylla***

Adults of the first summer generation began flying by the middle of last week, so nymphs should be beginning to hatch within another week or so. Most control materials for psylla are most effective against the small, soft-shell nymphs. Control options include Actara, Avaunt, Esteem, Mitac, Provado, and Pyramite; as well

as summer oil, kaolin clay, and insecticidal soap. EBDC fungicides directed against *Fabraea* leaf spot will also help suppress psylla. Agri-Mek may still be used with good contact effectiveness, but we're past the ideal window of rapid shoot growth needed for best results with this material.

## ***Codling Moth***

Flight of codling moths has just gotten under way, so eggs should be hatching in a week or two. In general, organophosphate insecticides directed against *curculio* will also control codling moth, even when flight is delayed as it seems to be this year. But growers using some of the new materials that are not quite so strong on codling moth should be aware that a more carefully-timed spray application may be needed.