

NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

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Tarnished Plant Bugs

Once the snow cover disappears, we can hang TPB traps. I covered how (and where) to get them in issue #2. Some blocks of fruit trees seem to have very high pressure from TPB, and often it seems that they are near large expanses of hay, alfalfa, open fields, power lines, or other places that seem to produce lots of TPB's. Other blocks have so little TPB pressure that applying insecticide for TPB makes no sense. Traps can help you figure out which category your blocks are in, and see how bad the problem is this year. Early season TPB injury is visible as buds that drip or ooze clear or light brown fluid. The bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts, so they don't appear chewed.

Did Our Tough Winter Hurt The Pests?

Every spring I am asked a version of this question, by growers and reporters. There is no simple answer. For those that overwinter in or on the ground, the great snow cover should have insulated them quite well, thank you. For those that overwinter on exposed twigs and branches, **some** might have had a tougher time than usual. The only apple pests that I can think of that had a very tough time this winter are white-tailed deer and the fungus that causes powdery mildew of apple.

Peach Leaf Curl: Before Buds Swell!!

Yes, I know that I said this newsletter was for apple pest management, but since many apple growers have a few peaches, I thought this reminder was a good idea. There are several fungicides that can be used to combat peach leaf curl. If you had a problem with it last year, you had one chance to hit it earlier (in fall, after leaf drop), and the last opportunity to stop it for this year is in spring, **before the buds swell**.

Karnak The Great Predicts Few Problems From Powdery Mildew (Apple)

The Great One knows that the fungus that causes powdery mildew of apple overwinters as mycelium, and is quite susceptible to cold temperatures during the winter. The few varieties that are susceptible shouldn't show it this year. Thank goodness I took pictures last year!

Think About San Jose Scale

The weather watchers tell me that last summer was one of the warmest on record. That suggests that SJS may have been able to crank out a 3rd generation last year. (I don't know; I wasn't checking.) If that is correct, we would expect higher than usual problems this year. If you have spots that formerly had SJS problems, or where SJS injury was obvious at harvest, you might want to be very careful to get thorough coverage there on your oil spray this month. The most effective timing to kill SJS with oil is at the half inch green stage. For European red mite, the ideal timing is at tight cluster. As usual, look at the weather forecast carefully when planning an oil treatment. We want mild weather the day of spraying, and that night. More details are in the New England Apple Pest Management Guide.

It's Green Tip. Do You Know Where Your Scab Spores Are?

I suppose it is more important to ask if you know about how many there are. There should be a very low percentage of ascospores that are mature now, and this together with little exposed susceptible tissue means that the threat from apple scab is generally low now. The exception might be for sites with a very high PAD (Predicted Ascospore Dose). Now that silver tip stage is past, I will ask Alan Rollins (Bill MacHardy's technician) to regularly provide the degree day information collected at the UNH Horticulture Farm. That will help us all keep track of the predicted rate of ascospore maturation. You can follow, too, if you monitor degree days in your orchard. Details are in the scab maturation section of the New England Apple Pest Management Guide. Right now we are in the lag phase of spore maturation, at least in Durham. I don't know what things are like in tropical areas, like Hollis.

Here is Alan Rollins' information: The weather equipment at the Horticulture Farm indicated 75 scab DD had accumulated as of April 18th.

Tractor Safety Workshop

Seth Wilner informed me that Sullivan County Farm Bureau and Sullivan County Cooperative Extension are hosting a tractor safety workshop on May 10th, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location is Fall Mountain High School (Langdon), and it is for people 12 years old and older. More details can be obtained from Keith Short (835-2909), Jeff Holmes (835-6856), Seth Wilner (863-9200), or Cassie Sullivan (542-8781).



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