



NEW HAMPSHIRE VEGETABLE, BERRY & TREE FRUIT NEWSLETTER

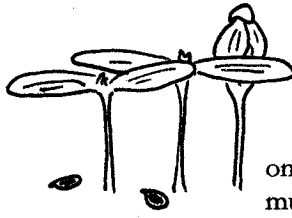
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GEORGE HAMILTON, EXTENSION SPECIALIST; TREE FRUITS

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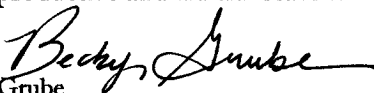
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NEWS & INTRODUCTION

UNH Cooperative Extension now has two specialists serving NH fruit and vegetable growers! Becky Grube is responsible for Small Fruits, Vegetables, and Sustainable Agriculture and is based in Durham, and George Hamilton is now responsible for Tree Fruits and will remain in Hillsborough. We both are enjoying working together to provide more of the resources that NH growers need. This bulletin, the new Vegetable, Berry & Tree Fruit Newsletter, will be a collaborative effort. Our mission is to keep you posted on relevant information we learn throughout the year. We welcome your input on how we can best serve you, through this newsletter or otherwise. Please contact either of us with suggestions for topics that you'd like us to cover. It seems fitting that this first issue falls at the start of the growing year – we wish you a productive and fruitful season!


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MUMMY BERRY CONTROL IN BLUEBERRIES

As many of you know, blueberry mummy berry disease was a major problem in 2003 and 2004. The mummy berry fungus overwinters in mummified fruit

on the ground. In the spring, spores are produced by mushroom-like apothecia on mummified fruit, and are spread by wind. Under cool and wet conditions, these spores infect green shoots and cause twig blight (primary infection). More spores are produced by infected twigs and leaves. These can then infect blossoms and the fruit they produce (secondary infection). Infected fruits start to develop normally, but turn pinkish and shrivel instead of ripening.

Raking under the bushes very early in the season to disturb the apothecia before they release spores can be effective. Another control strategy is spring mulching to bury the mummies and apothecia. Application of lime sulfur, urea, or concentrated fertilizer to the soil surface to 'burn' the apothecia.

If fungicides are required, applications should begin at bud break, or at the early green tip stage of growth, to prevent primary infections. The material should be reapplied at the recommended interval (10-14 days, for Indar). Indar 75 WSP currently appears to be the most effective fungicide for controlling the disease. ***Effective March 21, 2005, the EPA has approved an emergency use (Section 18) label for the fungicide Indar (fenbucanazole) to control this disease in New Hampshire.*** The emergency use label is available through distributors, or you can contact us for a copy. An important note - this exemption is only good through August, 2005. It is imperative that you follow the restrictions on the label, and that you maintain records of the location, rate, and date of any Indar applications. We must have this information at the end of the season in order to apply for another Section 18 label in 2006.

Two reminders: **Indar is not labeled for control of other diseases in blueberry, and use of Orbit (propiconazole) is not legal in NH!**

