

NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

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Beware of “small” label changes

The devil is in the details, and that can be true for pesticide users, too. Many pesticide labels now are modifying things like the minimum distance they can be applied to “bodies of water”. Danitol 2.4EC is one example. For New York applicators, application cannot be made closer than 100 feet to streams, etc. If you have a 50-ft. diameter irrigation “hole” with no inlet or outlet, is that a body of water? Another surprise is the variation in protective equipment that early entry workers must wear. I was surprised to see quite a bit of variation in what is required, even between very similar formulations of the same product. The New England Apple Pest Management Guide has a table that helps you with quick reference of that early entry PPE information. I hope you have been using it. It has been there for a while.

The bottom line here is that you need to read the entire label! One way you can do that **before** you buy is to visit the website for the Crop Data Management System. Nearly all crop pesticides registered here are on the site. You can search the current labels, supplementary labels, and materials safety data sheets. The address is <http://www.cdms.net>

Modification of PYO Restrictions for Lannate and Others

Several DuPont products used to have wording that some New England regulators interpreted as forbidding their use on pick-your-own sites. Now there has been a re-wording that will make things more clear. The new wording is “XXX cannot be used after a pick-your-own site is opened for public entry.” The intent is that you can use it until you open for picking. Vydate and Lannate have this new wording. There may be other products with this, too.

Are You Planting a Time Bomb for Fire Blight?

Many IPM people are increasingly concerned that we are heading for very serious fire blight problems. Growers are removing varieties that are not terribly fire blight susceptible, and replacing them with those that are VERY susceptible, like Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Ginger Gold, Jonagold, and Mutsu. To make matters worse, we are planting them on the most susceptible rootstocks, like M9. Currently, there is only one effective antibiotic that is registered for FB management, and we are very unlikely to get another until resistance to this one is widespread. Widespread concern about antibiotic resistance arising from agricultural use is holding things up.

Yes, there are other materials that can assist with FB management, but their performance has been unreliable, I am told. Also, they are VERY expensive. It would be even worse if we were in an area where it was more likely that warm rains would coincide with bloom.

The best way to manage FB is with a combined program, including: considering variety and rootstock susceptibility, sanitation, considering nitrogen fertilizer rates, monitoring weather, dormant copper sprays, managing insect vectors, and (if necessary) antibiotics. Please think about FB susceptibility as you plan future plantings.

Actara Gone for NH Apple Growers

Use of the new insecticide Actara on New England apples is now history. If you miss it, you could always move your orchard to New York or Michigan. The company removed its use in apples (a commodity with lots of insecticide alternatives) in some states, so it could expand use on other commodities. Apparently the company has an agreement with EPA on total amount of product that can be used in the US, and it makes marketing sense to make these adjustments. In states where this is still legal, they have special state labels (24c registrations) allowing its use on apples. If you have some on hand that has the old label (apples written on it), you **are** allowed to use it up. I am unaware of any time restriction to use it up.

Label Expansion: Warrior

We are still awaiting final confirmation from EPA, but we expect to hear about more insects and crops listed on the new label for warrior. Warrior is a synthetic pyrethroid, so it is a fairly broad spectrum material (beetles, caterpillars, aphids, leafhoppers...). Currently you may be familiar with it if you grow corn, alfalfa, broccoli or tomatoes. I understand apples and apple insects will be on the new label (plus new vegetable crops & insects).

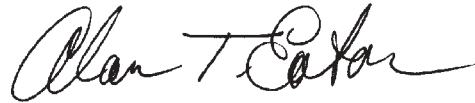
Transferring The Farm

UNH Cooperative Extension is one of the sponsors of 5 workshops this March, designed to help farmers and farm families make informed decisions about how to transfer the farm to the next generation. The NH session is March 19, in Concord. If that date is bad for you, the same session is offered on different dates from March 12 - 20 in ME, MA, VT & CT. It runs from 9:00 AM until 3:30 and cost \$15. Mike Sciabarrasi can sign you up or provide more details. His telephone number is 862-3234.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2002 AG CENSUS!!

Have you been counted in the USDA's 2002 Census of Agriculture that is currently underway? Report forms will be accepted through June 2003 as the USDA reviews and summarizes the data. If you are not counted, your industry will not be properly represented. Many federal programs and dollars are determined by state and regional Census figures. It is not too late.

If you did not receive a Census report form, **please call 1-888-424-7828 to get a copy.** Your answers are completely confidential, exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and cannot be subpoenaed in a court of law. You may call the New England Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA in Concord, NH at 1-800-642-9571, if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan T. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Alan T. Eaton
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Integrated Pest Management