

NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

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Fruit Bud Stages

As of Tuesday March 29, bud stages at the UNH Woodman Horticulture Farm in Durham were as follows:

Pioneer McIntosh Apple: dormant.

Peaches: Dormant.

Jap. and Eur. plums: dormant.

Pears: dormant.

Blueberries: swollen buds.

Blacklegged ticks are already active! Don't be a Lyme disease victim.



Brown Marmorated Stinkbug

George Hamilton and I have been monitoring the brown marmorated stinkbug situation here and in states to our south. This is currently a **very serious pest** of peaches, nectarines & apples in Maryland, West Virginia, and parts of Pennsylvania. The damage there in 2010 was just terrible: multiple visible pock marks and indentations on the fruit surface, and severe internal corking and browning in the flesh. The most effective pesticides they have seem to offer only a couple of days of relief, and the insects invade by the thousands from the orchard borders. In 2010 the attack was basically season-long.

I have two take-home messages here: 1) for growers who ship fruit, you have a marketing advantage for a while, as many orchards in MD, VA, WV & PA have significant reduction in crop quality and/or saleable harvest. 2) this will be our battle in a few years (**not now**), when BMSB becomes a serious pest here. It is

already in Portsmouth. Down South, it took about eight years for the insects to go from nuisance stage (as we had in parts of Portsmouth last September) to serious orchard pest. With our cooler temperatures, it might take longer than that for us. The clock started when it turned up in Portsmouth this summer. Vegetable and small fruit growers: it will hit you, too. It is causing problems in cherries, grapes, blueberries, field & sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, soybeans and others. Are there any ornamentals growers reading this? It will hit you, too. Species lists and other information are being compiled now in the states where this is already serious.

The silver lining is that there is research going on to improve management of this insect, and when it becomes serious here, we hope there will be improvements in our management options. Biological controls, odor attractants, lights, traps and pesticides are already being investigated.

We have created a new page on the IPM part of UNHCE's website. It is currently devoted to BMSB, and we will periodically update it with new information, as the need arises. For now, the message is to alert people to its identity, and confirm where it is in NH. It also has links to excellent publications in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. I'll try to periodically update it as information develops. Here is a link to that new page <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGPMP/Brownmarmoratedstinkbug.htm>

SWD

I figured I'd get you used to the acronym. **Spotted wing drosophila** is a very tiny fly I mentioned last year ([April 13, 2010; vol VI issue #2](#)). George Hamilton and I have plans to monitor for this fruit fly in some New Hampshire cherry, blueberry and/or strawberry plantings. It is already widespread on the west coast, and has been confirmed from Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina. The original home is China, Korea and Japan. The reason it is of concern is that this species has a saw-edged egg-layer, so it attacks sound, ripe fruit. Our native drosophilids have to wait for the fruit to get overripe, or have punctures in the skin, to attack. I'm not sure what we'll do when it becomes established, but the first step is to start looking. The name comes from the fact that males have a black spot at the tips of their wings. Our native species do not. This is really small, 2mm long (about 1/12th of an inch).

Pesticide/Bee Toxicity Issues?

Clothianidin has been available for a while. Tree fruit growers may recognize the trade name Clutch. There are other products, used on other crops, including Aloft, Belay, Arena, and Celero. The active ingredient is a neonicotinoid insecticide, MOA Group 4a. There is concern that use of this chemical may be too risky for honeybees (and, probably our native bees, too). I note that Clutch is allowed for use on pears and apples only post-bloom. I'm guessing that is to protect bees. But of course, there are flowers in orchards after bloom (dandelions for example). Some of the products are used on turf & ornamentals situations. As I learn more, I'll keep you posted. The jury is out, so to speak.

UNH Cooperative Extension Agriculture Program Review

Agriculture is the first program area that will complete this program review. The other program areas (Forestry & Wildlife; Sea Grant, Water & Marine Resources; 4-H Youth Development; Family & Consumer Resources and Community Development) will undergo reviews as well. The idea behind this is to see what the needs are in NH agriculture, look at what we're doing, and how it fits. This will involve digesting the input from NH ag. people and asking if we should modify what we do and/or how we do things. County meetings on this began Feb 21st, and the campus-based staff are doing a survey. I attended the Hillsborough and Rockingham meetings and already learned some things that will modify what I'm doing. We hope to have everything done in the next few weeks. For those of you who have participated --- THANK YOU for your time and comments!

Budget Cuts

Cooperative Extension (and other agencies) is facing proposed budget cuts at the County, State and Federal levels this year. The one that would most severely impact the UNH Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest

Management Program is the threatened cut of federal Smith-Lever funds. That's the funding source that made this effort possible (it started in 1978). It continues to provide the bulk of the funding that pays for my salary, and part of some others, plus travel, & supplies. We have been able to supplement that with grants from the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, but they do not include any salary funds. I recently submitted my proposal for this fiscal year. With luck, we'll get the funding we require. I'm a bit concerned, because small states with limited resources and personnel (like ours) must compete with the states that have many IPM people on staff.

At a recent meeting, a Cheshire County grower asked "What can we do, to help? We don't want to lose you!" My answer was: We are being challenged by proposed budget cuts at the County, State and Federal level. When your County threatens to make cuts in extension funding, speak up and let the representatives know how UNH Cooperative Extension has helped you, and how important it is. The same is true of the state budget. Although I'm very visible as an IPM person, the IPM program affects so many New Hampshire people because of the network of staff and offices we have, collaborating at many levels. The success of the current grant proposal is in the hands of administrators in Washington, who must follow the wording of the latest farm bill. That's where that funding originates. I'm not politically astute enough to know whether a telephone call or letter to the NH Senators and congressmen in Washington will help. As an employee of a federally-funded program, I can't contact them to ask that they continue support... but you growers can.

Fruit Pest Update Telephone

I'm planning on starting up the FPU April 5th, with a new message every Tuesday. As I write this, I'm going to check on bud stages and weather equipment at the Woodman Horticulture Farm. The telephone number is unchanged: 862-3763. It will automatically answer your call any time of day or night, until I turn it off about September 10th. The information I put on the FPU includes bud stages, degree day information, warnings about what traps to put up, what pests are of concern now, and what events (meetings etc.) are coming up. Yes, it includes insect info, fruit disease concerns, vertebrate pests, and sometimes weed info.

Where to Buy Insect Monitoring Traps

This is the first issue of the year, therefore the best time to remind you where to find traps to monitor tree fruit pests. I've still got just two sources:

Gempler's. P.O. Box 44993, Madison, WI 53744-4993. Phone: 1-800-382-8473, FAX: 1-608-662-3360 or visit: www.gemplers.com

Great Lakes IPM. 10220 Church Rd, NE, Vestaburg, MI 48891. 1-800-235-0285, FAX: 1-989-268-5311 or visit: www.greatlakesipm.com

Both places have traps for pests of tree fruit, small fruit, greenhouse, vegetable, field and forage crops. They've also got some sticking agents, insect nets, magnifiers, references and more.

Meetings & Demonstrations (includes some directed at backyard growers) Note that these are all on UNHCE's events calendar, at our website: <http://extension.unh.edu/events/>

April 1, 2011. Grape Pruning Demonstration. 5:30 - 7 PM. Brookdale Fruit Farm packing house, Broad Street, Hollis. For more information contact George Hamilton, 641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu

April 2, 2011. Blueberry and Apple Pruning Demonstration. 9:30 - noon. Alan Harding's North Ridge Farm, 323 Haines Hill Rd, Wolfeboro. Registration is required; call 447-3834 or email: bettylou.canty@unh.edu

*April 4, 2011. **Management of Vertebrate Crop Pests.** 6 - 8:30 PM. Review bird and vole damage prevention and control for fruit and vegetable crops. 2.5 Pesticide Credits will be given for this workshop. UNH Cooperative Extension Office, Sullivan County, 24 Main St., Newport NH 03773. For more information and to register, please call the Extension Office at 603-863-9200.*

*April 6, 2011. **Tree Fruit Pruning & Pest Management Workshop.** 5 - 7:30 PM. Miller Farm, New Durham. For more information contact Geoffrey Njue, 749-4445 or geoffrey.njue@unh.edu*

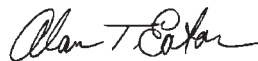
*April 6, 2011. **Tree fruit pruning demonstration.** 5 - 7 PM. John Casimir residence, 439 Mason Rd, Milford. (apples, pears, peach, cherry, plum) For more information contact George Hamilton 641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu*

*April 11, 2011. **Home fruit pruning demonstration.** 4 - 6 PM. wildlife, Shieling Forest, Old Street Road, Peterborough, one quarter mile south of the hospital Cost: \$5 per person. This demonstration features pruning backyard fruit trees and older mature apple and pear trees (the latter for wildlife), and crabapple trees. More information: George Hamilton or Jon Nute, 641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu*

*April 13, 2011. **Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration.** 5 - 7PM. At Jim Chakuroff residence, 12 Bog Rd, Goffstown. This features overgrown, medium sized apple, peach, pear and plum trees. More information: George Hamilton 641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu*

*April 16, 2011. **Apple and Blueberry Pruning Demonstration.** 10 AM - 12:30. River View Farm, River Rd., Plainfield. For more information or to register please call the Extension Office at (603) 863-9200 or email sherrie.laclair@unh.edu as space is limited. Pre-registration is required by April 4nd.*

*April 20, 2011. **Tree Fruit Twilight Meeting.** 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Merrill Orchard, North Londonderry. The NH Fruit Growers Association is sponsoring this statewide commercial tree fruit grower's twilight meeting. UNHCE Specialists will be present to discuss pest management options, and orchard management. For more information, contact George Hamilton at 641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu.*



Alan T. Eaton
Extension Specialist
Integrated Pest Management