



## NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

August 17, 2010

Volume VI

No. 8

### Avaunt and Apple Maggot

I thought I'd relay this discussion, which occurred during harvest last year. The 2009 New England Tree Fruit Pest Mgmt Guide lists Avaunt as "Fair" to control apple maggot. One experienced New England grower who had very heavy apple maggot pressure last year used Avaunt at regular rates and suffered heavy infestation. We (NE tree fruit IPM people) discussed this situation. There are several tests on it in the northeast, but it seems that none had really high AM pressure, as did this orchard. To me, that reinforces the idea that if you know you have really high pressure from some insect (fill in your pest name here), you select a material that gets a "Good" or better rating. Some orchards have had significant reduction in fruit this year, due to the frosts in May. If you have that situation, and have some fruit in spots, that suggests that the apple maggot flies this year will have relatively few fruit to attack, so you might experience higher than usual "pressure" on those apples you do have.

### Fall Webworm on Apples, Stone Fruit, Blueberries

I've been seeing webs of this insect in apple orchards (and blueberry bushes, too) more frequently in recent years than in the past. I'm guessing that growers are spraying less now (good for you!), and these pests are getting through. Fall webworm has just one generation per year here, but the egg laying (and thus, appearance of new webs) is spread over a very long period --- from late July through mid-September. This year, I started finding webs July 5th!

The caterpillars are hard to kill if we use airblast sprayers with low gallonage. The resulting fine mist doesn't reach the insides of webs very well. You can alter that by using higher gallonage and a wetting agent. Another alternative is to spot-treat the webs, using a hand gun – type sprayer.

On pesticide labels, this pest name rarely appears under apples. The ones I found in a search last November included Dipel (some forms), Biobit, Javelin WG, and Warrior.

In New Hampshire, if you have a private pesticide applicator license, you are legally allowed to try an insecticide that is registered for a crop, but doesn't specifically list the species you want to kill under that crop, on the label. In legal terms, this is a "2ee" recommendation. If the stuff doesn't work, you can't complain to the company. You might want to consider pesticides like: Altacor, Ambush/Pounce, Asana, Battalion, Baythroid, Belt, Danitol, Delegate, Entrust, Guthion, Imidan, Lannate, Leverage, Proclaim, Proaxis, Rimon, Sevin (some forms), SpinTor... Some others are not very likely to work, like Avaunt, Movento, Assail, and others.

If you're in NH and you **do not** have a private pesticide applicator's license, you are very limited in the pesticides you could legally use for this insect, because the label would have to list Fall webworm under apples (or whatever crop you plan to spray), to be legal for you to use.

## **Cyclamen Mite in Organic Strawberries**

Other IPM workers in the northeast are also seeing a LOT of cyclamen mite on strawberries this year. I'll repeat that they are very small, so don't expect to see them with a 10X hand lens or unaided eyes. They're rarely on exposed foliage --- they live deep in the crowns, where the new tissue is forming and expanding.

My colleagues and I discussed what organic growers could do if they had a cyclamen mite problem. One suggestion was to try a thorough application of stylet oil [in spring, not now], trying to get it to penetrate deeply. JMS stylet oil is an example of one brand that has a formulation approved for organic sites. Another idea was to try introducing one of the predator mites, either *Neoseiulus fallacis* or *Phytoseiulus persmiliis*. I don't think these choices are as effective as artificial chemicals applied correctly, but they might help.

## **Berry Diagnostic Tool On Line**

I learned about this at a regional small fruit meeting, and I am impressed. Marvin Pritts and Cathy Heidenreich (Cornell University) have created an on line tool to help you figure out what is wrong with your berries. They did the keys on blueberries, strawberries and raspberries, while Gina Fernandez (N.C. State University) wrote the key on blackberry problems, and Kim Hummer did one for currants and gooseberries (National Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, Oregon).

You use it by selecting the crop of interest, then select from a written list of symptoms. You click on what sounds right, and look at color photos and verbal descriptions to see if it matches. There are lots of nice photos, and the verbal descriptions are direct and simple to follow. It also has links to additional resources to check for management information. There is even a comment section, for those who'd like to send feedback after trying it. I like it, and think they've done a nice job. Here is a link to it: <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berrytool/index.htm>

## **Raspberry Crown Borer**

Adults of raspberry crown borer fly starting in Late August. I sometimes find them sitting quietly on vegetation near raspberry or blackberry patches. They are moths that look very similar to yellow jackets. They lay eggs on the lower leaves (often on undersides). When the tiny caterpillars hatch, they crawl down the cane and bore in close to the ground. For those who look carefully, you might even find the eggs, which are dark.

## **More on Witch's Broom of Blueberry**

My colleagues in Maine, who have had plenty of experience with blueberry pests, tell me that proper pruning of an infected plant can keep the plant going, and sometimes keep it fairly productive for years. I didn't know that. That doesn't change the fact that our primary defense is to eliminate balsam fir nearby. How far? Well... the farther the better, and hopefully not within 1000 feet or more! That's small comfort to North country people who want to grow blueberries. What is the proper way to prune it out of an infected bush? If you detect a broom developing on a branch, prune out that entire branch, at the base, right away. If a broom forms low on a main stem of the plant, there's not much you can do.

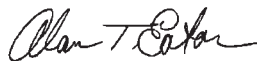
## Meetings

I learned that **Vermont NOFA** has a series of meeting through this fall that might interest some of you. More information is on their website at <http://nofavt.org/annual-events/summer-workshops>

**NOFA-New Hampshire** also conducts a series of workshops and farm tours. Info on each is at their website at <http://www.nofanh.org/>

*Tuesday, August 17, 2010. **Integrated Vegetable, Livestock and Seafood. at New Roots Farm**, 31 Doe Farm Lane, Newmarket NH 5:30 PM*

*Thursday August 26, 2010. **New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station Research Field Day – Woodman Farm** . Surprise! The tour starts at 8:15 AM, and ends at noon. Various researchers will show what they're working on at the Woodman farm, which is on Spinney Lane, Durham.*



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