



NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

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No More Excuses on Mowing!!

During primary apple scab season, some apple growers like to delay mowing, using the tall grass to prevent some ascospores from reaching apple foliage. Now that primary scab season is over (in southern NH anyway), you don't have this excuse any longer. Tall grass is an inviting place for deer to give birth and hide fawns, and it encourages meadow voles, giving them plenty of food and cover. By the way, most fawns in NH are born in the first 2 weeks of June, so you don't have much time to make it less inviting for them!

Apple Scab Evaluations

About 10 days after the release of the final spores in primary apple scab season is the time to do the last primary season evaluations. The ten day wait is so that the last lesions to form will become visible to the eye. Instructions on how to do this are in the New England Tree Fruit Pest Management Guide. This is a critical time to evaluate your situation with regards to apple scab, the most serious apple pest we have.

Summer Diseases on Apple

If you remember earlier fruit pest workshops or newsletter articles on sooty blotch and flyspeck, you remember that the number of hours of leaf wetness after petal fall (HLWAPF) is a critical measure. Each cycle of the fungus requires 270 HLWAPF to complete. This growing season started so early, it has the potential to crank out an additional cycle of growth, so the possibility is that summer diseases might be bad this year, if we don't keep on top of it. Cheryl Smith has some leaf wetness equipment running at the Woodman Horticulture Farm in Durham, so I'll try to keep you apprised via the fruit pest update telephone (862-3763) and upcoming issues of this newsletter. For us in Durham, petal fall on McIntosh apple was about May 7-8. It has been relatively dry here since then.

Plum Curculio

I spent a lot of time May 23 and May 25 climbing apple trees and counting curculio scars. This warm weather is ideal for them. Typically attacks on apple last about 3 weeks, but in some years it is longer. About 2001 (?) entomologists in New York unveiled a tool to help growers predict how long to maintain insecticide protection from plum curculio. For some NH orchards, it seems to work fairly well. For others, it doesn't work well. I'll mention it here so you can consider it as an additional decision-making tool, not the gospel truth on PC. The model says protection should continue through 340DD (base 50) after petal fall. I've been recording DD's in

Durham, and as of Monday May 24, we had accumulated 98DD since petal fall on McIntosh. Note: the model says maintain coverage through 340DD. When you spray a plum curculio insecticide, you expect a residue will remain for seven to 10 days after you spray, unless there has been a lot of rain. So keep in mind how much residue you think remains, when using this model.

I referred to Glenn Koehler's orchard radar earlier this month. It has this same plum curculio model plugged in, and [weather data from Hancock NH](#). I think you already know this, but warm weather is when PC activity peaks. Warm, humid nights are times when they can be especially active.

Oriental Fruit Moth, Stone Fruit Pest

We have been trapping adult Oriental fruit moths for several years now. The major peak occurs in late May & early June. This year's data looks similar, with numbers starting to go down now. For a few stone fruit growers in Southern NH, it may be important to protect stone fruit from this first generation (most of you know who you are).



OFM is a threat in two ways.

1) it lays eggs on the tips of growing shoots, and the caterpillars hatch & bore into those shoots, killing back the tips.

2) the later generations of caterpillars (there are 2 or 3 generations in NH) bore into the fruit. They attack stone fruit (plums, nectarines, peaches as well as apples). George Hamilton took this photo of damaged peach shoots in a NH orchard last August.

Oak & Hickory Plant Bugs

For southern NH peach growers who still have a crop, some of you may want to keep an eye out for oak and hickory plant bugs. These are similar to tarnished plant bugs, just slightly larger and a little lighter more green color. They are most likely in blocks surrounded by lots of oak and/or hickory trees. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts, so damage is called "catfacing". Typically these insects are active a short time in June, then disperse.

Rose Chafers: Grape, Brambles

Rose Chafer is a tan beetle with spiny legs that feeds on foliage of grape, blackberry and raspberry, as well as foliage and flowers of rose. Occasionally they get numerous enough to cause serious problems, especially in areas with sandy soils. They should be out now (or soon). If you have only a few, I wouldn't spray with a chemical insecticide.



Black Vine Weevil --- Serious Strawberry Pest

This insect can sometimes be a very serious pest on strawberry. It also attacks brambles, as well as many ornamentals, especially Rhododendron. It overwinters as a larva in the soil. The larva is a legless c-shaped white grub, feeding on roots and boring into crowns. When fully grown (usually June) it pupates in the soil, and emerges as an adult in late June or early July.

The species has several odd characteristics. For one, the adults hide in leaf litter or other protected places, and come out to feed at night. They have wings, but the wings are fused, so they cannot fly. They get around by walking or being carried by you. Males have never been found, so it takes just one adult to start a new infestation. Adults feed and by late July or early August, start to lay eggs. Egg laying continues until really cold weather shuts things down in the fall. Occasionally, some survive the winter as adults, if they have some protection. In the laboratory, adults can survive for several years. Does this sound like a formidable foe? It can be.

Often the first sign of significant infestation in strawberries occurs during harvest. You notice that the plants just aren't producing as well as they should. Looking at the leaves, you find that many show notches chewed at the edges. If you have lots of damage, the time for controls is later, not now.

I'll go into more detail in a later issue, but if you have a serious infestation, you have 3 choices. 1) scorched earth policy: disc up old bed, put the new one FAAAAAR away, and don't allow any plant species that can be hosts to larvae, grow on the old site for at least one year. 2) spray with an insecticide called Brigade [kills some of the adults but can cause mite outbreaks]. Or 3) treat with insect-attacking nematodes [tricky to do correctly, and expensive].

Potato Leafhoppers Due Soon

Potato leafhoppers can't overwinter in New England. They overwinter along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Every year they build up in numbers, and use prevailing winds (sometimes very high up) to move hundreds of miles north and east. Usually the adults arrive some time in June. They are yellow-green in color, about 1/16 inch long. If you have a magnifying glass, you can see several white marks on and just behind the head.

On apple, PLH strongly prefers to feed on shoots and suckers. It has saliva that is toxic to many plants. On apples, feeding causes cupping of the leaves, followed by yellowing of the leaf margins (sometimes browning leaf margins), and stunting shoot growth. On a mature tree, that isn't necessarily a bad thing. On very young trees, it is more serious, especially the stunting of growth. Other crops attacked include alfalfa, basil, beans, potato, even cantaloupe, watermelon & squash. Some herbs and flowers are attacked too, but I don't have a reliable list.

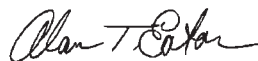
Meetings

*Wednesday June 2, 2010. **Zone Tillage and Soil Health Meeting.** Wilson farm, Litchfield, 5:15 to 7:30 PM [meeting will start across from Rodonis gardens, 27 Charles Bancroft Highway].*

*Wednesday June 9, 2010. **Tree Fruit Grower Meeting.** DeVilder Orchard, 563 Pleasant Valley Road, Wolfeboro 5:15 to 8 PM.*

*Thursday June 24, 2010. **Fruit and Vegetable Meeting.** McKenzie Farm, 71 Northeast Pond Rd, Milton. 5:00 to 8:00 PM*

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