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Precipitation for June

If one was to ask what the weather was like for this past June, I think many of us would respond wet, cloudy and cool. Although it seemed that it was wet every day Kentville only recorded 62.8 mm of rain and Greenwood had only 55 mm. The average rain fall for Kentville during June was 70 mm. Other areas of Nova Scotia were much wetter with the Halifax airport recording 149 mm.

Diseases

Apple Scab

Another week of damp and cloudy weather, however, only two infection periods were recorded at Kentville. The first infection period was the result of rain on Saturday July 4th starting at 4:00 pm and lasting until 2:00 pm on Sunday. The infection period may have begun earlier in areas to the west of Kentville which experienced thunder shower activity mid morning on July 4th. The second infection period was a broader one with the wetting period approximately 10 hrs in duration with an average temperature of 18°C. The wetting period began around 1:00 am and lasted until late morning on Monday.

Powdery Mildew

The optimal time for controlling this fungal disease has passed. Fungicide application to control the spread of this fungus would only be required where there is a heavy infection. The cool wet weather has not been ideal for the spread of mildew. Check your young plantings for mildew which can reduce tree growth if it gets onto the terminal shoots.

Brown Rot

For those of you that are fortunate enough to have a sweet cherry crop you will need to be applying fungicides on a regular base as the fruit ripens to control brown rot. During periods of wet the spray interval may need to be shortened to five days to obtain adequate control.

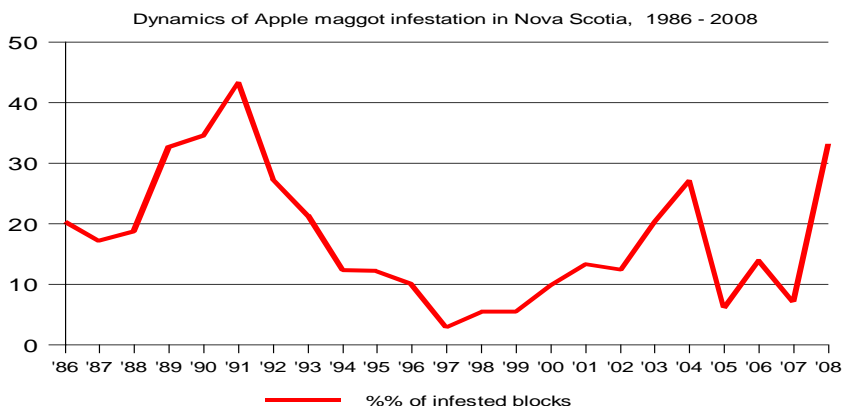
Insects

Apple Maggot Traps

I have been informed by the NSFGA office that maggot traps have arrived. If you ordered traps they can be picked up at the NSFGA office in Blair house.

Apple Maggot

The graph below was taken from Dr. Alexander Shalin apple maggot report for 2008 which was present by Lorne Crozer at the past NSFGA Annual Convention. You will note on the graph below spikes in infestations for 1991, 2004 and a sharp increase in 2008. Time will tell if 2008 was also a spike year. There is some question as to whether wild host and abandoned orchards are major contributors to the increase in apple maggot infestations. In 2008 maggot emergence was a week ahead of average and there was heavy rain fall during peak egg laying both of which are felt to be contributing factors to the increase in orchards with apple maggot. The 2009 growing season to date has been slightly ahead of last year and there has been lots of moisture so the ground is soft which means maggot flies will have no problem emerging. Maggot should start emerging any day now thus traps should be hung by the latter part of this week or early next week. The newly emerged flies are sexually immature and before mating spend 7 to 10 days feeding on honey dew. The first treatment for apple maggot would not be required until after mid July and would be applied to early maturing cultivars. Sprays on mid to late season maturing cultivars generally could begin the week of July 20th if a maggot has been caught in a trap. Growers that are not having their orchard block monitored for apple maggot should be making use of maggots traps to determine the need and when to apply pesticides for this pest.



Presently the OP insecticides offer the best control for apple maggot however after 2012 Guthion/Sniper will no longer be an option. Imidan and Zolone at the present time will still be available after 2012 but it is question able for how many years. Calypso is registered for apple maggot control however is less effective than the OP's. It tends to be more effective in reducing egg laying than acutely killing the flies. Calypso has 10-14 days of residual activity, a 30 day pre harvest interval and 12 hr re-entry interval. Delegate has a registration for the suppression of maggot which means it will reduce the population but not provide total control. It would be an option where maggot pressure is low and the fruit will not be exported.

Codling Moth

The weather has not been great for codling moth flight which has resulted in a gradual build up of trap captures. It was noted at this morning's Orchard Outlook meeting that it was not until this week that trap capture numbers triggered codling moth treatments for a number of growers. Just a note for growers that did not apply an insecticide until now that some codling moth damage will appear from the first eggs that were laid. Trap captures will take place for a while yet and growers should continue to monitor traps to see if a second insecticide application is needed.

Green Apple Aphid

This aphid is doing well under these weather conditions and there is lots of new shoot growth for them to feed on. Check bearing and non bearing trees to see if treatment is required. Unlike rosy apple aphid this aphid will not be leaving apple trees for an alternate host and will be present into the fall. Admire, Assail, Movento and Pirimor are registered for green apple aphid. Pirimor is only an option for those growers that have it on hand and should be used up this year as it will no longer have a registration in 2010. The other three products are slow acting and may take upwards of a week to reduce the population.

New product Registration for Apple Maggot Control

Under the minor use program GF-120 Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait (spinosad) has received registration for the suppression of apple maggot. It has also been listed by OMRI for use in organic production. This product is a bait and kill pesticide and needs to be applied with special spray equipment that produces large spray droplets in the 4-6 mm size range. The applicator can be mounted on an ATV. The product needs to be applied weekly while maggot flies are present so upwards of 10 applications may be required. The product is applied at a rate of 1.5 liters in 6 liters of water per hectare.

Horticultural Tips

Vegetation Control

A couple of crops that have done well during June are weed and grass growth. These past two weeks I had to mow the lawn every five days. Many orchards block will require a second herbicide to control the new flush of broadleaf weeds and grasses. The window for the use of 2, 4-D is just about over as mentioned last week as the pre-harvest interval is 80 days.

Deer Control

Keep a check on young plantings for signs of deer feeding. Browsing by deer can stunt tree growth and set the tree back for the remainder of its life. You have spent money and time to set out a new orchard with the intent of growing apples and not feed for deer.

Hand Thinning

The June-July drop is just about over and growers should start to get a feel for the crop load. Where there are still too many apples on the tree hand thinning can begin any time now. Studies conducted in New York State showed that the earlier you hand thin Honeycrisp the greater the improvement in return bloom.

Rainy Day Reading Material

There were a couple of interesting articles in the last two issues of the New York Fruit Quarterly. One of the articles is on crop load management of Honeycrisp which is similar to the work being done by Doug Nichols and Charlie Embree and the other is on fire blight and the development of streptomycin resistance. These articles can be found at the following web site: <http://www.nyshs.org/fq.php>

Second Orchard Renewal Plan

Apple tree assistance under the HCORP ends with the 2009 plantings however, the NSFGA are seeking funds for a second program. In anticipation of obtaining funding growers are being asked to fill out the 2010 application form by **July 31, 2009**. If funding is made available then growers will not miss out on a year of planting. The application forms are available from the NSFGA or can be down loaded from their website: <http://www.nsapples.com/intrown.htm>

Contributions and consultations were made in the preparation of this newsletter with the Orchard Outlook Committee and Dr. Rob Smith

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